

The SPORTS PINK

55p

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**

**EASTLEIGH SCORE TWICE
TO BEAT NUNEATON**

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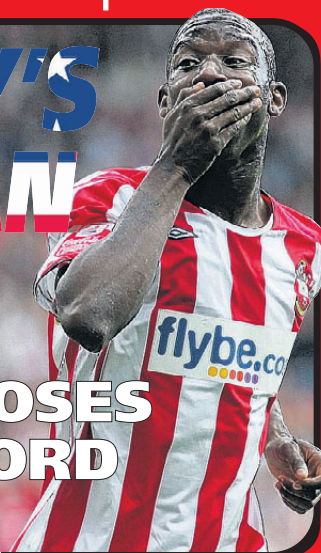


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**BRADLEY'S
AMERICAN
DREAM**

**EX-SAINT CLOSSES
ON MLS RECORD**

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**SAINTS HAMMER SUNDERLAND
IN RECORD-BREAKING MATCH**

FULL STORY AND REACTION BEGINS ON PAGES 2 AND 3

FIND THE BALL JACKPOT - SEE PAGE 34

FOOTBALL



**Are fans paying
the price?**

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SAINTS



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YOUTH SOCCER



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GREAT SOUTH RUN



**Preview of the
big event**

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Saints Spotlight



SAINTS 8 (YES, EIGHT!) SUNDERLAND 0:

A GR-EIGHT GOALS...

SAINTS produced one of the most memorable results in their entire history as they destroyed Sunderland 8-0 at St Mary's today.

On a phenomenal afternoon, Ronald Koeman's side turned in a record-setting display that will be talked about in these parts for years, even decades, to come.

The result not only represented Saints' biggest-ever Premier League win, it also matched their largest-ever margin of victory in any league game, following on from an 8-0 home success over Northampton way back in 1921.

At the end, Sunderland's players trudged off the pitch, heads bowed, with one travelling fan even pictured in tears.

By contrast, Saints, who remain third in the table, received an enormous standing ovation, while manager Ronald Koeman embraced and spent time consoling his opposite number, Gus Poyet, at the final whistle.

Gordon Simpson

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SPORTS REPORTER



Saints were set on the way by a stunning Santiago Vergini own goal, with Graziano Pelle and Jack Cork making it 3-0 before half-time.

After the break, Koeman's side found another gear and completely took apart a demoralised Black Cats outfit.

Liam Bridcutt's own goal was followed by another from Pelle, before Dusan Tadic, Victor Wanyama and Sadio Mane rounded the famous victory off.

Sunderland had actually started the match well, and it was little surprise when they struck first – the only problem for them was that it was in the wrong net.

Morgan Schneiderlin lofted a ball over the top of the Black Cats' defence and attempted to burst onto it himself, but

Vergini raced back towards his own goal to clear.

As the ball dropped, the full-back – who was trying to put it behind for a corner – unleashed a stunning half-volley that flew into the far corner.

It was one of the most incredible own-goals you will see, bringing raucous laughter from the home fans as replays were shown on the St Mary's big screens, while the Sunderland supporters shook their heads in disbelief.

Cries of "sign him up" from the Saints faithful would have done little to improve their mood.

Neither would what happened in the 18th minute, as more calamitous defending led to Saints doubling their lead.

A Vergini clearance out of



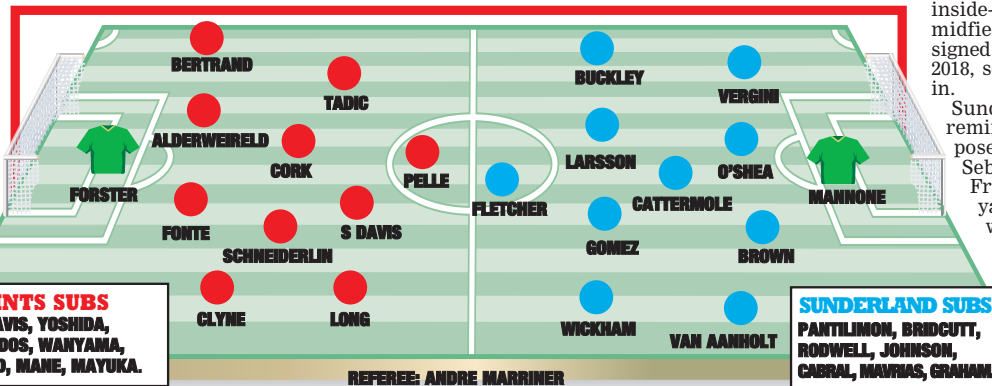
Sunderland's defence hit Sebastian Larsson, with the ball falling to Tadic. He slipped a pass immediately into the run of Steven Davis down the inside-left channel, with the midfielder, who this week signed a contract extension to 2018, squaring for Pelle to tap in.

Sunderland issued a reminder that they still posed a threat, when Sebastian Larsson tested Fraser Forster with a 25-yard free-kick, but they were then lucky not to be reduced to ten men, as Lee Cattermole escaped with a yellow card after he clotheslined Shane Long in midfield.

Cattermole then nearly provided Sunderland with a route back into the game, as his through-ball put Steven Fletcher in.

The striker got there a yard before Forster, knocked it past the keeper and was brought down by him.

Fletcher's touch was far too heavy for referee Andre



Ronald Koeman made two changes from the team that lost 1-0 at Tottenham last time out.

Sadio Mane, who played for Senegal on Wednesday night, was dropped to the

TEAM NEWS

bench in favour of Shane Long.

Jack Cork was also added to the line-up, taking the place

of Victor Wanyama, who had been away on duty with Kenya during the week.

For Sunderland, there was one change, as injured full-back Billy Jones was replaced by Wes Brown.



SAINTS V SUNDERLAND - A HISTORIC RIVALRY - PAGES 12-15

Saints Spotlight

GOALS GALORE IN A RECORD-BREAKING DAY AT ST MARY'S

DAY FOR



CELEBRATIONS: For players and fans alike as the goals mounted up.



JOY: After Pelle scores his second for Saints.

DESPAIR: For the Sunderland defenders unable to stop Pelle's goal

one change at half-time, swapping Wes Brown for Bridcutt. It did little to change the pattern of the game, though, with Saints nearly adding a fourth when Pelle nodded a Tadic delivery into the path of Davis, who fired over from the edge of the box.

Schneiderlin was the first Saints player to receive a caution, after a high foot on Fletcher.

From the resulting free-kick, Vergini's terrible afternoon continued, as he headed over from a great position, after Fletcher had nodded Larsson's delivery back across goal.

Pelle and Long then both sent in shots that Mannone comfortably dealt with, before Poyet threw on Adam Johnson and Jack Rodwell for Gomez

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Marriner's liking, however, with the ball practically behind before contact was made.

Sunderland were furious at the lack of a penalty, although perhaps some of their frustration could have been directed at Fletcher, who went looking for the spot kick, when he could just as easily have kicked the ball the other side of Forster and into the net.

Moments later, Saints moved even further out of sight, as Tadic was given time in the area to pick out the run of the unmarked Cork at the back post.

He sent a first-time effort towards the bottom corner, which Vito Mannone perhaps should have kept out, only to push it inside of his post for 3-0.

Sunderland boss Poyet made

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LATEST LEAGUE TABLES - SEE BACK PAGE

Charlton's unbeaten run ended at Cherries

CALLUM Wilson netted the only goal of the game as Cherries ended Charlton's unbeaten record in the Championship at Dean Court today.

Wilson prodded home his eighth goal of the season in the third minute as Cherries made it three league victories in four games.

Brett Pitman was drafted in for his first Championship start since March as boss Eddie Howe made one change to his Cherries starting line-up.

Former Cherries loan goalkeeper Stephen Henderson was forced to scramble to his left to turn Matt Ritchie's low drive past the post in the second minute.

The chance came about after Charlton midfielder Johann Berg Gudmundsson had gifted the ball to Ritchie with a stray pass – and it would prove a costly error.

From the resultant corner, Cherries worked the ball to the left flank where Marc Pugh's trickery saw him outwit his marker before he crossed into the danger zone.

And Wilson (pictured) was on hand to steer the ball past Henderson from close range, the striker registering his eighth goal of the season.

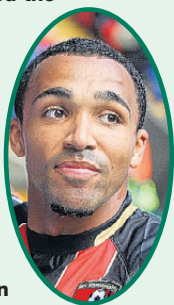
Tommy Elphick's last-ditch saving tackle denied Karlan Ahearne-Grant a shooting chance before the young Addicks striker's low drive was blocked by Steve Cook with Johnnie Jackson spooning the loose ball over the crossbar.

Henderson got down smartly at his near post to save after Wilson had met Ritchie's clever free-kick in the 17th minute with Andrew Surman blazing over the top.

Artur Boruc made a top-drawer save to keep out Gudmundsson's free-kick, the giant Pole clawing the ball over the top after it had looked destined for the top corner.

Wilson could only find the side netting from a tight angle after Pitman's slide-rule pass had put him in before Cook climbed to meet Ritchie's corner, only to see his header flash past the post.

Deep into added time, Boruc saved at his near post after Lawrie Wilson had met Callum Harriott's high cross with a firm header.



Saints Spotlight

Koeman 'in shock' at score

SAINTS manager Ronald Koeman admitted he was left in a state of shock after watching his side demolish Sunderland 8-0.

An incredible afternoon at St Mary's saw the club record their biggest ever margin of victory in a league match and produce a display that will hold a special place in their history.

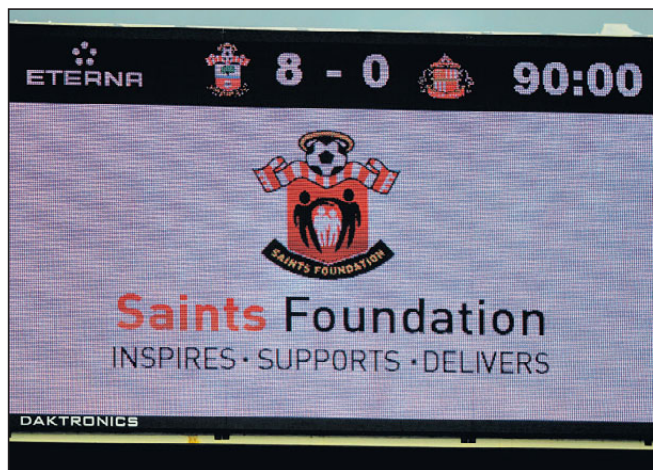
"I'm very pleased," said a rather understated Koeman afterwards. "I'm still a little bit in shock, because that 8-0 was not a normal result."

Koeman suggested his side did not deserve to be 2-0 up in the early stages, as Santiago Vergini's incredible own-goal and Graziano Pelle's tap-in masked what had been an impressive start from the visitors.

"I was surprised after 20 minutes about the score, 2-0 up, and we didn't start well the game," said Koeman.

"Sunderland was the dominant team and we had problems."

"We were lucky for the first one, an own-goal, and that gave us a lit-



ON BOARD: The St Mary's scoreboard at full-time

tle bit more confidence, maybe a little bit more organisation in the team and we wake up after that.

"We were maybe a little bit lucky after the 2-0 – I would have to see the clip back to see if it's a penalty

or not (after Fraser Forster brought down Steven Fletcher) – but very proud about the second half.

"We had 17 players out in the international break and if you showed that ambition to the last second of the game it was great, it was the best that I see ever of the team, and that was important, because we played great football, we scored great goals and it was a great afternoon."

Koeman consoled Sunderland manager Gus Poyet at the full-time whistle, adding: "I know Poyet very well. Out in Spain we played a lot of times against each other – he was a player of Zaragoza and I was a player of Barcelona."

"I said 'Unlucky, disappointed, because you did not deserve this score today.'

"They played well in the beginning of the game and I know the game is 90 minutes, but then my feeling was to the other manager, because losing 8-0 is a big result against your team and we spoke about that and the rest is private."

OWN GOAL WAS ONE OF THE BEST EVER

YOU know it's your day when your team takes an early lead with one of the better own goals you'll ever see.

Without wanting to take anything away from super Saints, it is the first of their EIGHT goals against Sunderland that will stay longest in the memory, following their biggest-ever Premier League win, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

Santiago Vergini's sweetly struck half-volley bettered anything this reporter can remember seeing anywhere and that includes all editions of Danny Baker's Own Goals and Gaffes.

As Saints continue to show there is much to look forward to post-Pochettino, it was somehow fitting that another Argentinian defender should present Ronald Koeman's side with such a welcome gift.

Like Pochettino, Vergini is a Newell's Old Boy old boy, but it is from Estudiantes that he has been loaned and it was clear to see why he is surplus to their requirements as he pinged Saints into a 12th-minute lead.

Even if you were not at St Mary's this afternoon but are on Twitter, you may have seen Vergini's slapstick moment when he was still



GREAT DAY: Steven Davis in action for Saints

wishing for the turf to swallow him up.

Footage was immediately posted on the social media site and 'Vergini' was trending for the rest of the afternoon.

Just in case you have not seen it, Morgan Schneiderlin had knocked the ball on and was attempting to chase it down after a slick Saints move.

But there was no obvious danger

to the Sunderland goal when Vergini crashed his right-footer past the helpless Vito Mannone from 17 yards.

It set the tone for a magnificent afternoon as Saints ran riot, refusing to settle for their 3-0 half-time lead by hitting a further FIVE in a madcap second half.

Despite Spurs' win against Saints a fortnight ago, Pochettino could be feeling like he has netted an

own goal of his own by leaving St Mary's for White Hart Lane, following his new club's 4-1 defeat at Manchester City.

Saints' thrashing of the club that inflicted two defeats on them under Pochettino last season means they are the Premier League's top scorers.

Their defeat at Spurs would appear to be a mere blip.

But why focus on an own goal when there was so much to admire from the 11 in red and white?

Quite.

Despite their generosity, not an ounce of mercy was shown to Gus Poyet and his team.

Here is one of Saints' greatest wins in one paragraph: Jack Cork's scoring spree continued with his third of the season in his third start, there was an opportunistic first for Dusan Tadic, a first goal also for Sadio Mane a second of the season for Victor Wanyama as well as another two for the irrepressible Graziano Pelle.

Oh, and it was in trying to deny the Italian that Liam Bridcutt scored the afternoon's other own goal.

But this was a day when Saints did not need a helping hand.

MORE REACTION AND PICTURES IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football

MCALLISTER ON TARGET

CRAIG McAllister netted for the first time this season as Eastleigh beat strugglers Nuneaton Town 2-1 at the Silverlake Stadium in the Vanarama Conference this afternoon, writes PETER HOWARD.

Jamie Collins bagged the Spitfires second as the Spitfires looked to be cruising to victory. But Lee Fowler's 67th minute free kick set-up a nervy finale for the Spitfires as the visitors searched hard for an equaliser.

The Stoneham Lane outfit have now recorded back-to-back victories after winning 4-1 against Halifax last weekend and lift themselves to just off the play-off places.

And Richard Hill's side have now done the double over the Warwickshire side, who are stranded in the relegation zone.

A good sight for the Silverlake faithful was James Constable return from injury as a second half substitute.

An unattractive fiddly, stop and start opening 15 minutes saw two Nuneaton players – James Armson and Dane Griffiths – booked and a number of free kicks conceded by both sides.

But after McAllister grabbed the opening goal, splendidly hitting home a half volley

from the edge of the box past the outstretch arm of Town rookie keeper James Hogarth-Wren on 18 minutes, Eastleigh were mostly in the first half driving seat – creating many chances but failing to extend the lead.

Jai Reason had time and space at the near post, but squandered a glorious chance. McAllister, Collins and Ben Stevens orchestrated some good play with Stuart Fleetwood benefiting from a couple balls into box – the resulting shots were well stopped by keeper Hogarth-Wren.

Dean Beckwith closed out the half when he narrowly missed the target with a header at the back post from Michael Green's cross.

Nuneaton barely troubled Ross Flitney's goal – although Gareth Dean planted a header just wide and a square ball whistled unattended through the Spitfires box – other than that a dominant half by Hill's men.

You'd have expected the Spitfires to kick-on and escalate their control after the restart, but it returned to being a bit stop and start – play didn't flow at all.

And it was a scruffy finish by Collins that saw Eastleigh double their lead on 56 minutes after a throw-in by the midfield man wasn't cleared by the away side.

The ball bounced its way to McAllister,



ON TARGET: Jamie Collins grabs the second goal for Eastleigh

whose cheeky back-heel found the onrushing Collins. His half scuffed shot bobbled into the right of the net.

Moments later Nuneaton forward Oneme Sodje missed an open goal in acres of space. His awful, spooned shot clattered against the post and Green cleared off the line.

But just as Eastleigh looked comfortable, Fowler put Liam Daish's side back into the match with wonderfully struck free kick on the edge of the box, that powered its way past Flitney.

Minutes later he darted into the box. His soft shot slipped out of Flitney's hand and off the bar.

The game should have been beyond Nuneaton's reach, but instead a late surge saw a nervy last 15 for Eastleigh.

There were waved-away calls against Beckwith for hand ball in the box and Ben Hutchinson couldn't climb high enough to head home from close range. Another effort was flashed across goal, but Town couldn't find the leveller.

Att: 1009

Eastleigh: Ross Flitney, Michael Green, Jamie Collins, Dean Beckwith (c), Craig Stanley, Jai Reason (James Constable 58), Craig McAllister, Stuart Fleetwood (Chris Todd 90), Ben Stevens, Will Evans, Paul Reid. Unused subs: Dan Spence, Yemi Odubade, Ben Wright.

Nuneaton Town: James Hogarth-Wren, Connor Franklin, Gareth Dean (c), James Armson (Jack Dyer 80), Theo Streete, Dane Griffiths (Craig Curran 59), Anton Brown, Lee Fowler, Oneme Sodje (Ben Hutchinson 74), Anthony Charles, Adam Dawson. Unused subs: Ben Starosta, Adam Walker.

City end Whitchurch's run

WHITCHURCH United's unbeaten start to the Sydenhams Wessex season ground to a halt at pre-season title favourites Winchester City this afternoon.

The surprise League leaders competed well to go in 1-1 at half-time, but had Jamie Mansell sent off in a a niggly second half as Winchester emerged 3-1 winners at the Denplan City Ground.

City suffered a pre-match blow when top scorer Warren Bently pulled up in the warm-up with a groin niggle. Geoff Dunn stepped in to partner Zach Glasspool up front.

The game got off to an eventful start with Winchester taking a fourth minute lead via the penalty spot.

Dom Cope got a slightly heavy touch on Chris Mason's crossfield pass as he roamed free on the left of the area. United keeper Brad Snelling dashed out and slid in, taking Cope's legs from under him, leaving referee Lewis Sandoe no option but to point to the spot.

Snelling was cautioned and, though he got a hand to the penalty, the strike by GLASSPOOL carried enough force to take it in.

The referee brandished another yellow card on ten minutes. This time it was Snelling's opposite

number Jason Collins who went in the book after he had raced out of his area and collided with Danny Phillips as the pair closed in on a long ball forward by Whitchurch.

With Whitchurch scrapping for everything in a somewhat frantic game, Winchester had to fight for the right to play their football.

Having had to work hard to match their visitors industry, City gifted Whitchurch a 34th minute equaliser.

A loose back pass by Mike McEnery on City's right fell straight into the path of ex-Romsey Town striker PHILLIPS who gleefully tucked away surely his easiest chance of the season.

Dunn fired just over and Glasspool was crowded out in a decent shooting position as City tried to atone for their generosity, but the half ended 1-1.

Just as in the first-half Winchester struck early to reclaim the lead.

It was a route one effort with Collins' long kick knocked on for DUNN who showed great composure to knock the ball past Snelling.

A tetchy game showed signs of boiling over on 52 minutes when McCarthy reacted angrily to a challenge by City skipper Stuart



ACTION: From the match between Winchester and Whitchurch

Green, resulting in both players being booked. Three minutes later Scott Hassell went in heavily on Green who required treatment and the Whitchurch man was yellow carded.

With the tackles continuing to fly in, McEnery thought he had put clear daylight between the teams

when, after several stabs he managed to poke the ball past Snelling and into the net, but the referee blew for a foul on the keeper.

Winchester tried to settle down and play their football, Glasspool steered a shot just wide at full stretch from Nathan's assist.

Ben Stanbrook created panic in

the Whitchurch defence from Glasspool's low free-kick and, with tension building, it was only a matter of time before things boiled over again.

It was Mansell to pay the price, receiving a red card for kicking out at Mason and reducing the visitors to ten men.

With Winchester now imposing themselves on the contest they strung together their best move of the afternoon with Glasspool twice extending passes with Dunn whose right-wing delivery was fired over by Mason from close range.

Snelling was then called into action again to block out Glasspool and the rebound went wide off City substitute Chris Manning.

Winchester made it 3-1 a minute into stoppage time with a goal set-up by Dunn.

Ironically the former Eastleigh and Lymington youngster had been due to go off a couple of minutes earlier, his replacement Adam Robert had the wrong number shirt on.

It worked in the home side's favour when Dunn squared for GLASSPOOL to make the point safe.

Whitchurch kept going to the bitter end with Hassell smashing a powerful shot wide.

EIGHT-PAGE SAINTS PULLOUT IN MONDAY'S ECHO

Non-league News

Bookies' favourites hand Poole a reminder

LAST Saturday's 3-2 defeat at St Neots was a reminder to Poole Town that they are not going to have it all their own way in the Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division.

Heading up to Cambridgeshire, the Dolphins boasted a near perfect record of 11 wins and a draw from their first 12 league games.

But a visit to Rowley Park, home of big-spending St Neots – the bookies' pre-season title favourites – was always likely to be Poole's biggest test of the campaign so far.

And so it proved.

Despite taking a 13th-minute lead when former AFC Totton defender Jamie Whisen forced the ball home through a crowded six-yard box, the Dolphins were hit by a double-whammy from Saints' prolific marksman Drew Roberts – the first on the stroke of half-time – before Lewis Hilliard made it 3-1.

Substitute Luke Roberts, another of Poole's ex-Totton contingent, pulled one back late on from a corner by Steve Devlin who was desperately unlucky in stoppage-time when his thumping 25-yarder was tipped onto the crossbar.

Weighing up the performance, Poole boss Tom Killick, right, said: "I didn't think there was much between the two sides."



"The significant event from our point of view was their equaliser on the stroke of half-time."

"They scored and then the referee blew almost immediately. That was difficult psychologically for us because it changed the complexion of the game."

"We weren't well beaten by any means and, even at the end, we struck the crossbar when the 'keeper got a slight touch. We just fell that little bit short."

Killick, though, is a realist and added: "As much as we were upset, we have no divine right to get out of this league."

"There are some unbelievably powerful teams in this division and going to St Neots was a reminder of that."

"We have clubs like Weymouth languishing behind us at the moment and, two or three years ago, nobody would ever have thought that would be the case."

"Sometimes people can get a little unrealistic with their expectations, but I am proud of what the players have done so far."

● More non-league news: See pages 20-30

CUSTOMERS OR FANS, THAT IS THE QUESTION

MUCH of the footballing talk this week has been about ticket prices, after the government's sports minister Helen Grant stated she was concerned at the rising cost of watching the game.

She said: "I feel clubs really must not take their fans for granted as it was revealed the average price of the cheapest tickets across English football has risen at almost twice the rate of the cost of living since 2011." In other news today: grass has been reported to be green, the sky is blue and water is wet.

If anything shows how out of touch modern politicians are with their constituents then it has to be this.

Tickets prices in football have been a source of annoyance for supporters for years, not just since 2011.

You're looking at a minimum of £130 for a family of four to have a day out at a Premier League club... and I reckon that's a conservative quote. It's a scandalous amount.

You'd never get that sort of pricing policy anywhere else in life, but the fan is trapped and the clubs know it.

If your weekly shopping bill at Tesco was £40 and it could be £30 at Aldi, you'd shop elsewhere. You can't do that with football, your club is your club for life, through thick and thin, and you can't just change brands.

EXPLOITED

Clubs know that and to a certain extent they exploit that.

For years I've had issues with the way football fans are treated at matches.

For what you spend, do you the football fan feel you get value for money?

Forget the match itself, it's a sport and the performance and the result are out of your hands. But for the actual match day experience, do you feel you get value for your money? If you hesitated before answering that question, think about this scenario.

You buy tickets for the Lion King at the Mayflower, there's a police presence, the auditorium staff tell you where your seat is, you're constantly looked at by them as the performance goes on, being told sternly how to view the musical, not to make too much noise or you'll be ejected from the theatre. That sort of thing would never happen.

Only in football are fans herded like cattle, spoken to like dirt and all of it overseen by the police.

You can counter my point with numerous examples of what football was like in the 70s

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER



COST OF SUCCESS: Fans are paying big money to watch Saints these days.

and 80s. I'd argue that has absolutely nothing to do with the way the game is run in the modern age.

Football has changed, it's a completely different beast these days.

The advent of Sky and live televised games mean that a lot of the element that ruined the game years ago have been priced out of the game.

With that in mind, the increase in prices might not be seen as that bad a thing.

But if you do that then you simply cannot

maintain the old ethos and attitude towards football fans.

At present you pay modern prices but get treated as if you were a potential hooligan.

In short, if football wants to charge big bucks then fine... but if it does then it has to supply value for money.

Treat fans with respect, don't treat them like cattle and don't treat them as potential hooligans. When you're paying as much as you do these days you're fully entitled to be treated like a fee paying customer.

ALL TODAY'S RESULTS: SEE PAGE 48

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

United are set to take flight once again

LIFT OFF: An in-form Wayne Rooney has been at the forefront of Manchester United's resurgence after a difficult start under Louis van Gaal this season.

AFTER finishing off the podium for the first time in Premier League history last season, Manchester United are on course to bounce back with Champions League qualification in 2014/15.

Louis van Gaal's side moved up to fourth place heading into the international break with a 2-1 win at home to Everton, marking the first time the Dutch manager has experienced back-to-back victories since taking charge in the summer.

Manchester United have achieved this despite suffering a large number of injuries and a couple of suspensions early in the season.

With as many as nine players missing each weekend, van Gaal could be forgiven for the tricky early start United endured.

The Dutchman's lack of emotion on the touchline in the first few weeks of the season was often criticised, seemingly preferring his trusty notepad to any exaggerated actions we might have expected when his team were underperforming.

Yet, even while seated and seemingly emotionless during turmoil, the steely, arrogant confidence remained in van Gaal's eyes.

It should be of no surprise that this is a man who trusts himself and his team.

The signs of improvement in United's play are a sign that fans should trust him too.

One of the points that irked the Old Trafford faithful the most last season was that there never appeared to be a second gear.

There was no 'Plan B'.

The approach from David Moyes seemed far too one dimensional to succeed.

The tactics far too often concerned stopping the opposition, rather than giving them a cause for concern.

Angel Di Maria, Wayne Rooney, Robin van Persie and Radamel Falcao make this a fearful side.

They even have Juan Mata in reserve to call upon!

Defence has been the main concern for United this season, and injuries haven't helped, but they have kept the opponents' goals down to one in each of their last two games.

While the panic that surrounds their defensive areas may not have disappeared completely, the impressive introductions of Paddy McNair and Tyler Blackett have earned Van Gaal, pictured right, some brownie points in the Old Trafford corridors.

Fergie himself praised the new man just this week, for keeping with the club's history and introducing

young players without fear.

The coming weeks will provide the sternest test for van Gaal's men and his methods, as Chelsea, City and Arsenal await.

Chelsea look frighteningly solid so far this season and in Diego Costa they have a striker finally capable of finding the back of the net.

This will worry van Gaal, particularly with his current defensive concerns, yet, if there is one team with enough attacking talent to worry Chelsea, it has to be United.

There are another 12 games to be played before the January transfer window opens – the next opportunity van Gaal will have to bring in new defenders.

Until then, it may be the case that United will aim to outscore their opposition, using attack as their best form of defence.

Few teams can match the talent that is on their books at the moment.

Now that they're adapting to the manager's tactics, they are among

the top four teams in the league.

The organisation will improve. So too the understanding among their strike force and their new, young, fresh-faced defence.

Van Gaal has been very vocal recently in criticising his team's inability to perform for 90 minutes. This too will improve, as the team becomes accustomed to his methods and demands.

There is excitement once more on the Old Trafford terraces and the future looks very bright for United. After the disaster of last season, progress is being made.

The league needs a strong Manchester United. They are our country's most marketable team, a status achieved by sustained success.

It can be argued that the league benefits from United's success, with a global reach of over half-a-billion people. They are a major factor in the TV riches flooding our game at the moment.

There will, of course, be ups and downs this season for United.

Problems will persist short term, and it would be foolish to believe otherwise.

What is certain, though, is that while they aren't quite there yet, United are definitely on the way back.



Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2014/15



AUGUST

Sat 17 LiverpoolA
Sat 23 West BromH
 Tues 26 Millwall (LC 2)A
 Sat 30 West HamA

L 1-2
 D 0-0
 W 2-0
 W 3-1

Forster
 Forster
 Forster
 Forster

Clyne 1
 Clyne
 Clyne
 Clyne

Fonte
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Bertrand
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Schneiderlin
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Tadic*
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W-Prowse
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Isgrove**
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Ramirez***

SEPTEMBER

Sat 13 NewcastleH
 Sat 20 SwanseaA
 Tues 23 Arsenal (LC3)A
Sat 27 QPRH

W 4-0
 W 1-0
 W 2-1
 W 2-1

Forster
 Forster
 Forster
 Forster

Clyne
 Clyne
Clyne 1
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Alderweireld
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 S Davis**
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Gardos***
Wanyama 1***
 Targett***

OCTOBER

Sun 5 TottenhamA
Sat 18 SunderlandH
Sat 25 StokeH
 Weds 29 Stoke (LC4)A

L 0-1

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Long*
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Wanyama*
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W-Prowse**
 S Davis**
 Bertrand**
 Cork**

Gardos***
Wanyama 1***
 Targett***

NOVEMBER

Sat 1 HullA
Sat 8 LeicesterH
 Mon 24 Aston VillaA
 Sun 30 Man CityH

DECEMBER

Weds 3 ArsenalA
Mon 8 Man UnitedH
 Sat 13 BurnleyA
Sat 20 EvertonH
 Fri 26 Crystal PalaceA
Sat 28 ChelseaH

JANUARY

Thurs 1 ArsenalH
 Sat 10 Man UnitedA
 Sat 17 NewcastleA
 Sat 31 SwanseaH

FEBRUARY

Sat 7 QPRA
Tues 10 West HamH
Sat 21 LiverpoolH
 Sat 28 West BromA

MARCH

Tue 3 Crystal PalaceH
 Sat 14 ChelseaA
Sat 21 BurnleyH

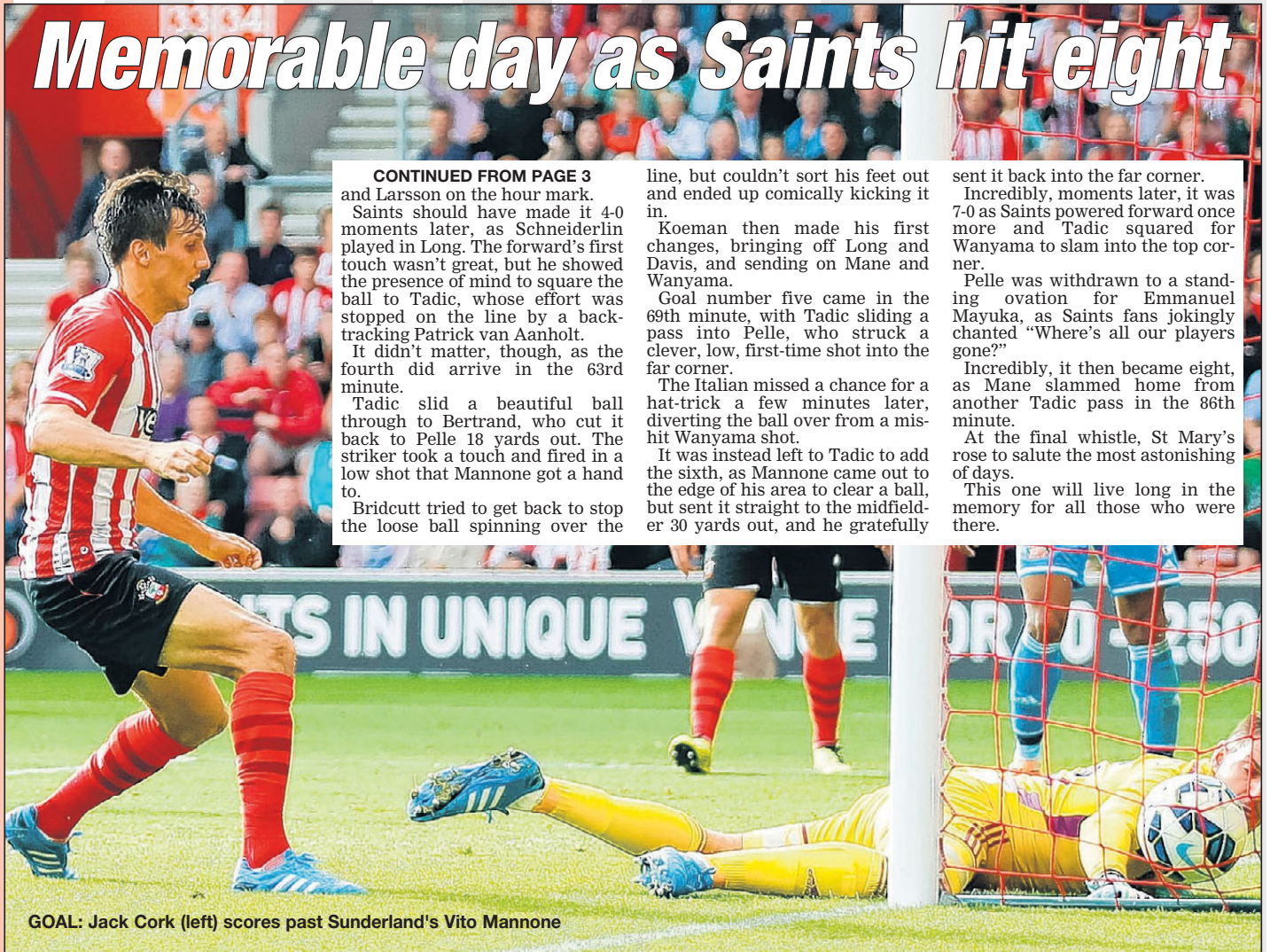
APRIL

Sat 4 EvertonA
Sat 11 HullH
 Sat 18 StokeA
Sat 25 TottenhamH

MAY

Sat 2 SunderlandA
 Sat 9 LeicesterA
Sat 16 Aston VillaH
 Sun 24 Man CityA

Memorable day as Saints hit eight



GOAL: Jack Cork (left) scores past Sunderland's Vito Mannone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and Larsson on the hour mark. Saints should have made it 4-0 moments later, as Schneiderlin played in Long. The forward's first touch wasn't great, but he showed the presence of mind to square the ball to Tadic, whose effort was stopped on the line by a back-tracking Patrick van Aanholt.

It didn't matter, though, as the fourth did arrive in the 63rd minute.

Tadic slid a beautiful ball through to Bertrand, who cut it back to Pelle 18 yards out. The striker took a touch and fired in a low shot that Mannone got a hand to.

Bridcutt tried to get back to stop the loose ball spinning over the

line, but couldn't sort his feet out and ended up comically kicking it in.

Koeman then made his first changes, bringing off Long and Davis, and sending on Mane and Wanyama.

Goal number five came in the 69th minute, with Tadic sliding a pass into Pelle, who struck a clever, low, first-time shot into the far corner.

The Italian missed a chance for a hat-trick a few minutes later, diverting the ball over from a mis-hit Wanyama shot.

It was instead left to Tadic to add the sixth, as Mannone came out to the edge of his area to clear a ball, but sent it straight to the midfielder 30 yards out, and he gratefully

sent it back into the far corner.

Incredibly, moments later, it was 7-0 as Saints powered forward once more and Tadic squared for Wanyama to slam into the top corner.

Pelle was withdrawn to a standing ovation for Emmanuel Mayuka, as Saints fans jokingly chanted "Where's all our players gone?"

Incredibly, it then became eight, as Mane slammed home from another Tadic pass in the 86th minute.

At the final whistle, St Mary's rose to salute the most astonishing of days.

This one will live long in the memory for all those who were there.

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
ARTUR BORUC	0	0	0	0	50	0
CODY CROPPER	0	0	0	0	0	0
KELVIN DAVIS	0	0	0	0	292(1)	0
FRASER FORSTER	7	0	2	0	9	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	18(1)	0
RYAN BERTRAND	7	1	0(1)	0	7(1)	1
MATT TARGETT	0(1)	0	2	0	2(1)	0
JOSE FONTE	7	0	2	0	186(5)	13
FLORIN GARDOS	0(2)	0	1	0	1(2)	0
TOBY ALDERWEIRELD	3	0	0	0	3	0
MAYA YOSHIDA	4	0	1	0	51(1)	2
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
NATHANIEL CLYNE	7	1	2	1	67(5)	4
JACK CORK	2(3)	1	0(1)	1	124(19)	2
HARRISON REED	0	0	0	0	1(7)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	7	3	1	0	208(31)	13
VICTOR WANYAMA	4(2)	1	2	0	26(6)	1
STEVEN DAVIS	6(1)	0	2	0	65(18)	6
LLOYD ISGROVE	0(1)	0	1	0	2(2)	0
SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	27(23)	8
DUSAN TADIC	7	0	1(1)	1	8(1)	1
SADIO MANE	2	0	1	0	3	0
JAMES WARD-Prowse	4(1)	0	1	0	35(31)	1

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
SAM GALLAGHER	0	0	0	0	3(17)	2
SHANE LONG	3(4)	0	1(1)	0	4(5)	0
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	0	0	3(10)	1
GRAZIANO PELLE	7	4	2	1	9	5
JAY RODRIGUEZ	0	0	0	0	59(17)	26

KEY: LA: league appearances, LG: league goals, CA: cup appearances, CG: cup goals, CSA: career Saints appearances, CSG: career Saints goals.

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**



Sterling fatigue is tiresome

RAHEEM Sterling's decision to ask to sit out England's game against Estonia because he was tired can be viewed as either a selfish or selfless act.

The selfish argument is how can he possibly be tired, he has so little to do most of the time, and he should get out there and do his job.

If it was an engagement for one of

his big sponsors, would he have struggled through it?

The selfless argument goes along the lines that fatigue can hit anybody, including sports people, and by not playing he didn't risk letting his team down.

The truth is that there has been a breakdown in the management of Sterling, as sad as it is that we

accept footballers need managing in such a way.

He simply should not be too tired to play this early in the season, and so something somewhere between his handling at Liverpool and England has gone badly wrong and led to a completely unsatisfactory outcome that should never have come to pass.

IMPACT OF SAINTS' UNSUNG HERO...

HE'S not always the player that catches the eye of the crowd.

He's not always the one whose contribution is poured over by television pundits.

But anybody doubting Steven Davis need only look at his recent international record to realise his impact.

Davis has been a real unsung hero at Saints.

While all the talk over the summer was of the star names that departed, and those who might follow, somewhat surprisingly Davis was never linked with a move away.

Good news for Saints, of course, but surprising given it proves how under the radar he flies even within the footballing world.

Since joining the club in the summer of 2012, Davis has been a pivotal member of the squad.

Not only is he versatile enough to switch between a defensive and attacking midfield role, but he can pull both of those contrary positions off with remarkable ease.

Davis has been labelled with something of a workhorse type midfielder tag, but that is unfair.

He does put in the leg work for his side, and can be an excellent shield for the back four when played in a deeper role, but his real talents have been shown further forward.

When people talk of creative talents in the Saints squad, they speak of Mane, Tadic and Pelle. Last season it was Lallana, Lambert and Rodriguez.

Nobody seems to speak of Davis.

And yet last season he had more assists than any other Saints player managed and also was the club's fourth top scorer. Not bad for a supposed workhorse.

He is far more creative than anybody ever gives him credit for.

His teammates are in no doubt over his contribution, and now he's proving it still further on the international stage.

Davis is the Northern Ireland captain, and they are flying right now.

Back-to-back wins during the latest international break means they have secured three wins from three and are well on course for qualifying for Euro 2016. To put that into context, they have never qualified for the European Championships before.

They are footballing minnows of some repute whose squad contains a handful of youngsters and many players not playing top flight football.

Davis is a major catalyst behind their success.



As one of their biggest stars, as it were, he is a key member of the squad.

Not just his presence and abilities on the pitch but also his experience of playing in big games against great players helps those around him.

Nobody can argue with the results that Northern Ireland have achieved, against all odds.

Of course, to keep it going and make that big step to actually qualifying is still a tough ask.

Davis, though, is proving on the international as well as the domestic stage what a star he is, even if his contribution is somehow continually overlooked.

Move on

IT'S been impossible to escape the hoopla that has followed Ben Flower's red card in the Rugby League Grand Final.

Wigan's Flower picked up a six-month ban for punching St Helens player Lance Hohaia to the ground and then clobbering him again while he lay on the pitch.

It was a fairly shocking attack, more so the second punch rather than the first.

It goes without saying that is not something that many people want to see, but there has been a vast overreaction.

While his actions were worthy of a significant ban, we should not forget that he plays in a sport where such incidents, and others of equal savagery but conducted much more discreetly, are hardly uncommon.

Flower's error of judgement came in a massively high profile and televised game, meaning the images were beamed into homes that would not normally see this sport or understand anything about it on news bulletins.

Taken out of the context of the sport in general, it is brutal.

But this is a sport, and it needs to be kept in perspective.

Flower has been punished and people need to move on.



Bridges

THE scenes in Belgrade this week as the match between Serbia and Albania erupted into chaos were a sad reminder that sport is always a victim of politics and regional tensions.

In a dream world football would be the thing that bridges the gap between two divided nations with some sad recent history.

Instead it provided the perfect platform for political protest and unrest that only escalates tensions still further.

UEFA will act and punish the nations involved, and where the players were out of control and there was inappropriate security rightly so.

But what they, and no one else, can control is the raw emotion that comes with areas so recently touched by conflict.

Sport, though, must carry on.

It remains one of the best hopes of finding a common bond in the future.

Iron stars

AS correctly predicted in last week's Adam Rant, the Ironman World Championships got pretty close to zero coverage.

Just to put the achievements of the women's winner, Mirinda Carfrae from Australia, into context, she ran a 2hr 50min marathon to take the crown.

Yes, that's a 2hr 50min marathon after swimming 2.4 miles and cycling full pelt for 112 miles, pulling back a 14 minute deficit coming off the bike.

Only a few men ran faster than her on the day.

It was an achievement for the ages and, for the record, we had British females in third and fourth in the shape of Rachel Joyce and Jodie Swallow.

Oh, and Seb Kienle won the men's title. Consider yourself informed.

Saints Spotlight



Did You Know?

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2016 QUALIFYING

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iceland	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Czech Republic	3	3	0	0	8	4	9
Netherlands	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Latvia	3	0	2	1	1	4	2
Kazakhstan	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Turkey	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

Next games

Nov 16: Netherlands v Latvia
Czech Republic v Iceland
Turkey v Kazakhstan

Group B

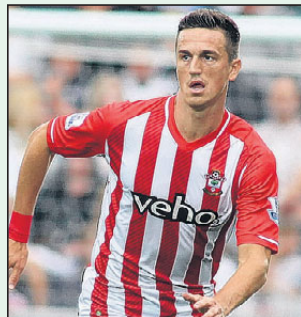
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Israel	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Belgium	2	1	1	0	7	1	4
Cyprus	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Bosnia-Herz	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Andorra	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

Next games

Nov 16: Belgium v Wales
Cyprus v Andorra
Israel v Bosnia-Herzegovina

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Spain	3	2	0	1	10	3	6



EURO 2016 HOPEFUL: Florin Gardos.

Ukraine	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Macedonia	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Belarus	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Luxembourg	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

Next games

Nov 15: Luxembourg v Ukraine
Macedonia v Slovakia
Spain v Belarus.

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	3	2	1	0	11	2	7
Rep Ireland	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
Germany	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Scotland	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Georgia	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Gibraltar	3	0	0	3	0	17	0

Next games

Nov 14: Georgia v Poland
Germany v Gibraltar
Scotland v Republic of Ireland

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Slovenia	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Lithuania	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Switzerland	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Estonia	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
San Marino	3	0	0	3	0	11	0

Next games

Nov 15: England v Slovenia
San Marino v Estonia
Switzerland v Lithuania

continued on facing page

Adam Leitch

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

IT'S been a busy fortnight for Saints' international stars.

The club's success has resulted in an incredible 16 first team squad members winning call-ups for the latest international fixtures.

Predictably, it has been a mixed bunch of results and success, but many are in prime position to qualify for major upcoming competitions.

Here at The Pink, we take a look back at the international break for Saints stars and look ahead to the tests ahead.

ENGLAND – Fraser Forster and Nathaniel Clyne

Victories over San Marino and Estonia have left England in a good position to make it through to Euro 2016 with a game against Slovenia up next in November, as well as a friendly against Scotland.

The international break had its highs and lows for Clyne, who was delighted to get a call-up but then disappointed to sit out both games on the bench.

Former Saints teammate Calum Chambers was preferred at right back despite initially being named in the under-21s, when Clyne was widely expected he would win his first cap.

Forster, who has won two caps for his country, continues to play second fiddle to Joe Hart.

ENGLAND UNDER-20s – Matt Targett and Harrison Reed

The Saints pair played a key role as Adrian Bothroyd's under-20 side won a four nation tournament in Holland.

Left-back Targett and midfielder Reed both started the first game, a victory over Germany, but with only one clear day before the second match against the hosts the Saints duo were then rested.

They returned to the side for the crucial final game against Turkey with Targett named as captain.

England secured a 1-1 draw and, with it, the title.

ITALY – Graziano Pelle

One of the biggest Saints winners from the international break was Pelle.

His dream start to the season continues.

After five goals in eight league and cup games since his £8m summer move to St Mary's, he won his first international call-up – at the age of 29 (the same age as Wayne Rooney is now).

After sitting out a narrow win over Azerbaijan, he got the nod to start against Malta and bundled home a scrappy goal that proved to be the winner on his debut.

Italy have not been entirely convincing thus far, but are in total command of their group.

SAINTS GOING

GET IN:
Graziano Pelle scored on his full Italy debut this week.



BELGIUM – Toby Alderweireld
Alderweireld may be deployed as a centre

FRUSTRATED:
Jose Fonte and Shane Long had to be content with a place on the bench for their countries.

half at Saints but has been used at right back on international duty.

It's been a reasonable one for him, too, as he played the full 90 minutes in a victory and a draw.

First up Belgium smashed Andorra 6-0 at home, and then Alderweireld set up the equaliser as they snatched a 1-1 draw in Bosnia.

They remain in decent enough shape but are in a tight group.

THE PINK & DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS

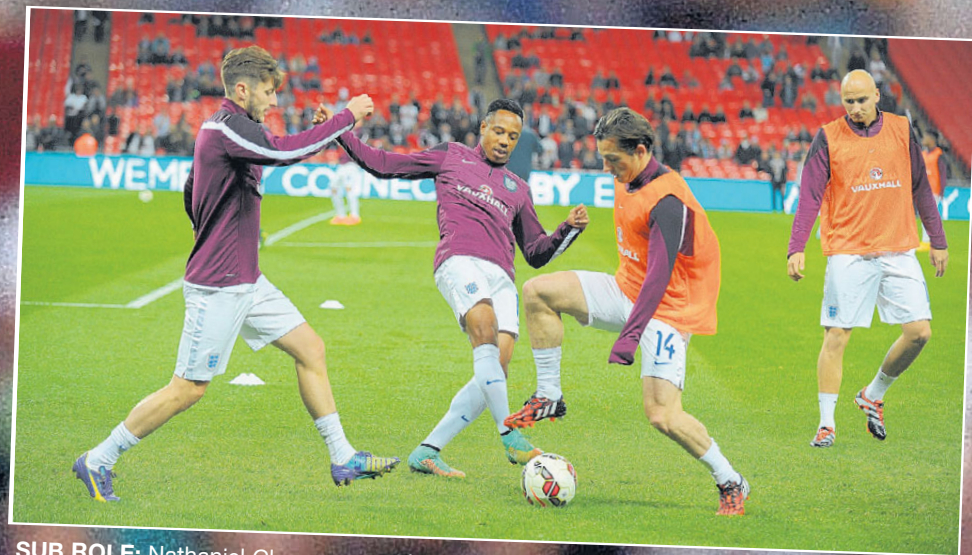
Saints Spotlight



INTERNATIONAL



FLYING HIGH: Steven Davis has skippered Northern Ireland to three straight Euro wins



SUB ROLE: Nathaniel Clyne, second left, is still waiting for his senior England debut.

ROMANIA – Florin Gardos
Started games against Hungary and Finland on the bench.

Gardos got plenty of action in the first fixture, as he came on after just five minutes in the 1-1 draw with Hungary, but was unused in the 1-0 victory over Finland.

They face high flying Northern Ireland next in a game that will be vital to their qualification chances.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND –

Shane Long
It was a fantastic international break for the Republic of Ireland, but a slightly frustrating one for Long.

His country produced two fantastic results, a 7-0 home hammering of Gibraltar and a 1-1 draw at World Cup winners Germany thanks to John O'Shea's injury time equaliser.

However, Long had to watch from the bench as he was an unused sub

in both games.

It leaves them second in Group D level on points with leaders Poland with an away game in Scotland up next.

SERBIA – Dusan Tadic

It has been an international break Tadic will want to forget.

First up he played the full game as Serbia required a late equaliser to bag a draw in Armenia.

He was then on the pitch amid the

chaotic and violent scenes as the game against Albania was abandoned on Tuesday after a drone carrying a flag was flown over the pitch before chaos ensued.

With UEFA investigating, it remains to be seen what action might be taken and what impact that could have on Serbia's chance of qualifying.

FRANCE – Morgan Schneiderlin

With France already qualified as hosts of Euro 2016, they are currently playing friendlies.

Schneiderlin appeared as a sub in the game against Portugal last weekend before playing the full 90 minutes as France defeated Armenia 3-0 three days later.

PORTUGAL – Jose Fonte

A first call-up to the Portugal squad for Fonte but he's still waiting for his first cap after being an unused sub in the friendly against France and then a 1-0 Euro 2016 qualifying win over Denmark.

Portugal host Armenia next.

NORTHERN IRELAND – Steven Davis

It's been another fantastic international break for Steven Davis.

He captained Northern Ireland to back-to-back wins over the Faroe Islands and Greece which leaves his nation in pole position to qualify for Euro 2016 with nine points from a possible nine thus far.

Ireland have never qualified for a European Championship finals before.

SENEGAL – Sadio Mane

Mane is a star man for country as well as club and played the full 90 minutes as Senegal and Tunisia battled out a 0-0 draw in Dakar.

The return Africa Cup of Nations group qualifier looked to be heading towards another stalemate before Tunisia struck a winner deep into stoppage time on Wednesday.

Senegal face Egypt away in a vital game up next.

ZAMBIA – Emmanuel Mayuka

It's been back-to-back games against Niger for Mayuka and co in the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

He was a second half sub in a 0-0 draw in the away game before earning a starting spot in the return match. Mayuka bagged a valuable goal in a 3-0 win that leaves Zambia with a real chance of making the finals with Mozambique and Cape Verde left to face.

Mayuka helped Zambia lift the Africa Cup of Nations in 2012, scoring from the spot in a penalty shoot-out win over Ivory Coast after a 0-0 draw.

KENYA – Victor Wanyama

Life doesn't get any easier for Kenya. They were surprisingly eliminated before the group stages of the qualification for the Africa Cup of Nations, and now have been beaten by Morocco 3-0 with Wanyama leading the side.

USA UNDER-23 – Cody Cropper

The young keeper was on the wrong end of a 3-0 defeat in a glamorous fixture away to Brazil.

Did You Know?

from facing page

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2016 QUALIFYING

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Ireland	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Romania	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Finland	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Hungary	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Greece	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Faroe Islands	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Next games

Nov 14: Greece v Faroe Islands, Hungary v Finland, Romania v Northern Ireland

Group G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Russia	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
Sweden	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Montenegro	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Moldova	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Liechtenstein	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

Next games

Nov 15: Austria v Russia, Moldova v Liechtenstein, Montenegro v Sweden

Group H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Italy	3	3	0	0	5	1	9



2015 HOPEFUL: Mayuka.

Norway	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Bulgaria	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Malta	3	0	0	3	0	6	0
Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Next games

Nov 16: Azerbaijan v Norway, Bulgaria v Malta, Italy v Croatia

Group I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Albania	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Portugal	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Serbia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Armenia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Next games

Nov 14: Portugal v Armenia, Serbia v Denmark

2015 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS QUALIFYING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	4	3	1	0	4	1	10
Senegal	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
Egypt	4	2	0	2	4	3	6
Botswana	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

Remaining group games

Nov 14: Botswana v Tunisia, Egypt v Senegal **Nov 19:** Tunisia v Egypt, Senegal v Botswana

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cape Verde	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Zambia	4	1	2	1	4	2	5
Mozambique	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Niger	4	0	2	2	2	7	2

Remaining games

Nov 15: Mozambique v Zambia, Cape Verde v Niger. **Nov 19:** Zambia v Cape Verde, Niger v Mozambique.

Saints Spotlight



Did You Know?

Award for Ron

RONALD KOEMAN this week won his first Premier League manager of the month award.

The Saints boss won the September silverware after the club won all three league matches in the month and also triumphed at Arsenal in the League Cup.

Previous Saints bosses to have won the award are Dave Merrington (April 1996), Graeme Souness (October 2006 and April 1997), Gordon Strachan (January 2002 and December 2002), Harry Redknapp (March 2005) and Mauricio Pochettino (October 2013).

Koeman is now only 26 awards behind Manchester United legend Sir Alex Ferguson!



TOP BOSS: Ronald Koeman with his award.

Most Premier League manager of the month awards

Alex Ferguson	27
Arsène Wenger	13
David Moyes	10
Martin O'Neill	8
Harry Redknapp	8
Rafael Benítez	6
Bobby Robson	6
Sam Allardyce	5
Kevin Keegan	5
Carlo Ancelotti	4
Roy Hodgson	4
Joe Kinnear	4
Gordon Strachan	4
Alan Curbishley	3
Gérard Houllie	3
José Mourinho	3
David O'Leary	3
Stuart Pearce	3
Brendan Rodgers	3

Follows Martin

RONALD KOEMAN is only the second Dutchman to win the Premier League manager of the month award.

Tottenham's Martin Jol won it in December 2004, when his successes that month included a 5-1 thrashing of Harry Redknapp's Saints.

continued on facing page

HISTORIC RIVALRY

SAINTS were this weekend aiming to end a long winless streak against Sunderland.

Prior to the Black Cats' Premier League visit to the south coast, Saints had not beaten the north east club in eight league and cup outings.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at all the clubs' post-war league meetings at The Dell and St Mary's.

October 15, 1960
Saints 3 Sunderland 2

Goals from Derek Reeves, George O'Brien and Tommy Mulgrew give Saints victory in the first ever league clash between the two clubs, a second division encounter.

November 18, 1961
Saints 2 Sunderland 0

George O'Brien and Derek Reeves were on target again against a Sunderland side that finished the season in third place.

September 22, 1962
Saints 2 Sunderland 4

Brian Clough bags a hat-trick for the visitors, with George Kirby twice replying for Saints.

Clough scored 24 goals in the first 24 league games of the season before suffering a knee injury on Boxing Day 1962 which eventually forced him to retire from playing.

April 11 1964
Saints 0 Sunderland 0

Saints, who scored exactly 100 second division goals that season, fire a rare blank against a Sunderland side who win promotion as runners-up to Leeds.

August 31 1966
Saints 3 Sunderland 1

Ted Bates' men collect their first ever home win as a top flight club.

In only the fourth game of the season, Saints have already played Sunderland twice after losing their first away game of 1966/67 at Roker Park a week earlier!

George Mulhall put the visitors ahead early in the second half, but Saints hit back through Terry Paine (penalty), John Sydenham and Ron Davies.

November 25 1967
Saints 3 Sunderland 2

Saints hit back from two goals down to win thanks to Ron Davies's 83rd minute goal.

Terry Paine had earlier brought Saints back in contention four minutes before half-time, with Mick Channon levelling just after the hour.

March 8, 1969
Saints 1 Sunderland 0

Ron Davies scores the only goal just before half-time.

March 7, 1970
Saints 1 Sunderland 1

After Ron Davies had missed a penalty, Mick Channon put Saints



ALL SMILES: Saints fans at The Dell as their club beat Sunderland in January 1948.

HERE are some great photographs from the Southern Daily Echo archives, taken when Sunderland arrived at The Dell for an FA Cup third round tie in January 1948. Saints, who had lost to the north east club three times in the Cup in the 1930s, won 1-0 thanks to a goal from Eric Day. Some Sunderland fans, right, flew down to the south coast for the tie.



GOAL: Joe Jordan scores during Saints' 4-0 FA Cup win over Sunderland in 1985.

ahead with 15 minutes left – only for the Black Cats to net an 85th minute spot-kick leveller.

Saints finish the season just three points ahead of relegated Sunderland in fourth bottom spot (but only two clubs went down at

that time).

January 14, 1975
Saints 1 Sunderland 1

Peter Osgood's early goal for Saints was eventually cancelled out 20 minutes from time.

December 6, 1975
Saints 4 Sunderland 0

Peter Osgood scored twice as Saints turned on the style, scoring all their goals in the second half.

Nick Holmes and Mel Blyth also

THE PINK & DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR SAINTS NOSTALGIA

Saints Spotlight

WITH SUNDERLAND



Did You Know?

from facing page

Awards by nationality

England	74
Scotland	50
France	16
Northern Ireland	11
Italy	9
Ireland	9
Spain	7
Portugal	5
Wales	3
Chile	2
Netherlands	2
Argentina	1
Israel	1
Sweden	1



TOP BOSS: Sir Alex Ferguson has won 27 Premier League manager of the month awards.

ONLY six clubs have won more Premier League manager of the month awards than Saints.

Awards won by club

Manchester United	27
Liverpool	14
Arsenal	13
Everton	12
Newcastle United	12
Chelsea	10
Tottenham	9
SAINTS	8
Manchester City	8
Aston Villa	7
Bolton	7
Blackburn Rovers	6
Leeds United	5
Leicester City	4
West Ham	4
Wimbledon	4
Charlton	3
Coventry	3
Middlesbrough	3
Nottm Forest	3
Portsmouth	3
Reading	3
Sheffield Wed	3
Sunderland	3
Wigan	3
Fulham	2
Swansea City	2
West Bromwich	2
Birmingham City	1
Crystal Palace	1
Derby County	1
Hull City	1
Ipswich Town	1
Norwich City	1
Oldham Athletic	1



GETTING THER EARLY: Saints fans start queuing outside The Dell in 1944.



UP FOR THE CUP: Action from Saints' 1-0 win over Sunderland in 1948.



GOAL: Steve Moran scores during Saints' 4-0 FA Cup win over Sunderland in 1985.

netted, against a visiting side who went on to claim the second division title, with FA Cup winners Saints in sixth place.

October 8, 1977
Saints 4 Sunderland 2

Saints twice fell behind in the opening 11 minutes, with Chris Nicholl having levelled in between strikes from Gary Rowell and Bob Lee.

Phil Boyer levelled just after the half hour, with Steve Williams fir-

ing Saints in front as a breathless first half continued.

After Sunderland had missed a penalty, Nick Holmes wrapped up victory.

January 31, 1981

Saints 2 Sunderland 1

Kevin Keegan netted both goals, with Gordon Chisholm netting a late consolation.

May 8, 1982

Saints 1 Sunderland 0

David Armstrong struck an 82nd minute winner after Rob Hindmarsh had been dismissed for the visitors six minutes earlier.

February 19, 1983

Saints 2 Sunderland 0

Nick Holmes and Mick Mills, the latter with his only goal of the season, celebrated Ian Baird's debut with three points.

February 11, 1984

Saints 1 Sunderland 1

Steve Moran put Saints ahead from the penalty spot, with Stuart Elliott levelling nine minutes from time.

Continued on page 14

CONTACT THE SPORTSDESK CALL: 023 8042 4515

Saints Spotlight



Did You Know?

Graz gets the gong

GRAZIANO Pelle became the fifth Saints player to win the Premier League player of the month award this week.

The £8m signing from Ronald Koeman's former club Feyenoord scored three goals in as many league games to win the September prize.

Pelle struck twice in the 4-0 win against Newcastle and also struck an acrobatic winner against QPR at St Mary's.

Previous Saints to win the award are Matt Le Tissier (December 1994, October 1996), Mickey Evans (April 1997), Kevin Davies (November 1997) and James Beattie (January 2000, November 2002).

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard has won more player of the month awards than anyone else.



AWARD WINNER:
Graziano Pelle with his September trophy.

MOST PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF MONTH AWARDS

Steven Gerrard	6
Wayne Rooney	5
Robin van Persie	5
Dennis Bergkamp	4
Thierry Henry	4
Frank Lampard	4
Cristiano Ronaldo	4
Paul Scholes	4
Alan Shearer	4
Robbie Keane	3
Gareth Bale	3
Peter Odemwingie	3
Ruud van Nistelrooy	3
Dwight Yorke	3
Ashley Young	3
Nicolas Anelka	2
James Beattie	2
Dimitar Berbatov	2
Dion Dublin	2
Cesc Fàbregas	2
Tim Flowers	2
Robbie Fowler	2
Ryan Giggs	2
David Ginola	2
Andrew Johnson	2
Roy Keane	2
Matthew Le Tissier	2
Rob Lee	2
Danny Murphy	2

RECENT HISTORY

from page 13

January 29, 1985

Saints 1 Sunderland 0

Joe Jordan netted the only goal against a Sunderland side who included defender Rueben Agboola, signed from Saints just a few weeks earlier.

Sunderland were relegated at the end of the season, but caused a sensation in the summer when they appointed Saints boss Lawrie McMenemy as manager.

April 13, 1991

Saints 3 Sunderland 1

Two goals in the last nine minutes from Matt Le Tissier (penalty) and Alan Shearer gave Saints a come-from-behind victory.

Rod Wallace had earlier cancelled out Thomas Hauser's opener for the Black Cats, who ended up relegated after just one season back in the top flight.

October 19, 1996

Saints 3 Sunderland 0

Defender Jason Dodd scored a spectacular long range opener before Matt Le Tissier (penalty) and Neil Shipperley completed the win.

Yet again, the Black Cats' yo-yo existence continued with relegation after just season in the Premier League.

April 1, 2000

Saints 1 Sunderland 2

Niall Quinn and Kevin Phillips (penalty) gave Sunderland the double over Saints, who replied through a late Matt Le Tissier spot-kick.

Phillips, who later joined Saints, had scored both goals when Sunderland had beaten Saints 2-0 at the Stadium of Light in December 2001.

Phillips ended the season with 30 Premier League goals and the European Golden Boot.

April 28, 2001

Saints 0

Sunderland 1

Kevin Kilbane struck the only goal in the 54th minute, meaning Sunderland were the last ever visiting side to win a league game at The Dell.

December 15, 2001

Saints 2 Sunderland 0

Former Christchurch defender Jody Craddock put through his own goal to open the scoring, and Marian Pahars completed victory in the second half.

December 28, 2002

Saints 2 Sunderland 1

Jo Tessem scrambled an injury time winner for Gordon Strachan's in-form Saints.



CUP OF CHEER: Saints on the attack against Sunderland in the FA Cup win in January 1985.



James Beattie had put the hosts ahead 17 minutes from time, with Tor Andre Flo equalising.



LATE JOY: Jo Tessem, above, scrambles Saints' late winner against Sunderland in 2002. Left – Jose Fonte wheels away after netting Saints' 88th minute leveller against the Black Cats at St Mary's last season.

April 9, 2007

Saints 1 Sunderland 2

Loan striker Marek Saganowski fired Saints into a 67th minute lead against Roy Keane's high-fliers.

But Carlos Edwards levelled 10 minutes later and Grant Leadbitter struck a winner three minutes from time as the Black Cats took another step towards the title.

December 22, 2012

Saints 0 Sunderland 1

Steven Fletcher scored the only goal as Nigel Adkins' Saints slipped to a disappointing loss.

August 24, 2013

Saints 1 Sunderland 1

Emanuele Giaccherini put the visitors into a third minute lead, and Saints had to wait until the 88th minute before Jose Fonte headed them level.

MORE SAINTS NOSTALGIA ONLINE: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Saints Spotlight

AGAINST SAINTS



Did You Know?

from facing page

MOST PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF MONTH AWARDS

Scott Parker	2
Teddy Sheringham	2
Luis Suarez	2
Daniel Sturridge	2
Chris Sutton	2
Fernando Torres	2
Tony Yeboah	2
Gianfranco Zola	2

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARDS WON BY POSITION

Striker	94
Midfielder	73
Defender	12
Goalkeeper	8



DOUBLE AWARD WINNER: Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola won two player of the month prizes.

Zola was the first

GRAZIANO Pelle is only the second Italian to ever win the Premier League player of the month award. Inaugurated at the start of the 194/95 season, the only previous Italian to win the award was Chelsea legend Gianfranco Zola, who won it twice.

Premier League player of the month awards won by nationality

England	85
France	15
Netherlands	15
Spain	8
Ireland	6
Wales	6
Portugal	5
Argentina	4
Nigeria	4
Brazil	3
Italy	3
Scotland	3
Trinidad and Tobago	3
Belgium	2
Bulgaria	2
Czech Republic	2
Finland	2
Ghana	2
Russia	2
Sweden	2
Uruguay	2



GOAL-DEN BOY: Steve Moran scores in the FA Cup win against Sunderland in 1985.



GOAL: Marek Saganowski opens the scoring against Sunderland in 2007, but the visitors hit back to win 2-1.



HISTORIC: Saints beat Sunderland at The Dell in August 1966.

SAINTS entered this weekend's game having not beaten Sunderland in their last eight league and cup outings. As you can see from the following table, the only club Saints have a worse recent record against is Manchester United. Saints have not beaten

United since August 2003 when James Beattie grabbed the only goal at St Mary's. Beattie was also the match-winner when Saints last beat Sunderland, at the Stadium of Light in January 2003.

CURRENT UNBEATEN RUNS v SAINTS (featuring games in all competitions)
 Manchester United10
 Sunderland8
 Stoke5
 Tottenham5
 Aston Villa2
 Chelsea2
 Leicester2
 Liverpool2

Manchester City2
 West Brom1
 Arsenal0
 Burnley0
 Crystal Palace0
 Everton0
 Hull0
 Newcastle0
 QPR0
 Swansea0
 West Ham0



JAMES BEATTIE

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Saints Spotlight



MOST ENGLAND CAPS

Peter Shilton 1970-1990	125
David Beckham 1996-2009	115
Steven Gerrard 2000-2014	114
Bobby Moore 1962-1973	108
Ashley Cole 2001-2014	107
Bobby Charlton 1958-1970	106
Frank Lampard 1999-2014	106
Billy Wright 1946-1959	105
Wayne Rooney 2003-	99
Bryan Robson 1980-1991	90
Michael Owen 1998-2008	89
Kenny Sansom 1979-1988	86
Gary Neville 1995-2007	85
Ray Wilkins 1976-1986	84
Rio Ferdinand 1997-2011	81
Gary Lineker 1984-1992	80
John Barnes 1983-1995	79
Stuart Pearce 1987-1999	78
John Terry 2003-2012	78
Terry Butcher 1980-1990	77

MOST ENGLAND GOALS

	Gls	Cps
Sir Bobby Charlton 1958-1970	49	106
Gary Lineker 1984-1992	48	80
Jimmy Greaves 1959-1967	44	57
Wayne Rooney (below) 2003-	43	99
Michael Owen 1998-2008	40	89
Nat Lofthouse 1950-1958	30	33
Alan Shearer 1992-2000	30	63
Tom Finney 1946-1958	30	76
Vivian Woodward 1903-1911	29	23
Frank Lampard 1999-2014	29	106



Steve Bloomer 1895-1907	28	23
David Platt 1989-1996	27	62
Bryan Robson 1981-1989	26	90
Geoff Hurst 1965-1972	24	49
Stan Mortensen 1947-1953	23	25
Tommy Lawton 1938-1948	22	23
Peter Crouch 2005-2010	22	42
Mick Channon 1972-1977	21	46
Kevin Keegan 1972-1982	21	63
Steven Gerrard 2000-2014	21	114

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND MOST CAPS

Robbie Keane	1998-	137
Shay Given	1996-	126
Kevin Kilbane	1997-2011	110
Steve Staunton	1988-2002	102
Damien Duff	1998-2012	100
John O'Shea	2001-	100
Niall Quinn	1986-2002	91
Tony Cascarino	1985-2000	88
Paul McGrath	1985-1997	83
Packie Bonner	1981-1996	80
Richard Dunne	2000-2014	80
Ray Houghton	1986-1997	73
Kenny Cunningham	1996-2005	72
Liam Brady	1975-1990	72
Aiden McGeady	2004-	72
Kevin Moran	1980-1994	71
Frank Stapleton	1977-1990	71
Andy Townsend	1989-1997	70
John Aldridge	1986-1997	69
David O'Leary	1977-1993	68

FOOTBALL'S FANS



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SPORTS EDITOR

THERE is more money swishing around the coffers of the Premier League clubs than ever before.

It allows the elite to spend ever larger sums of money on players, and to pay them ever larger salaries.

It has also allowed them to spend millions on improving their stadiums.

Sadly, no financial benefits have been passed onto the supporters.

This week's annual BBC Price of Football survey contained a host of sobering statistics. It revealed the cost of watching football has risen by almost twice the rate of inflation since 2011.

Fans of Premier League clubs are now paying almost four times the amount for a season ticket compared to supporters in Germany.

The average price of the cheapest match-day ticket across all four divisions is now £21.49, up 13 per cent since 2011.

That compares to a 6.8 per cent increase in the cost of living.

No shock, really.

The Premier League has long since shown it's recession proof, as the clubs rake in ever more money from highly lucrative domestic and overseas television deals.

Though it would be nice for the clubs to pass on some savings to the fans who continue to fill the stadiums, let's live in reality.

Arsenal is the most expensive club in Europe to watch via a season ticket, ranging from £1,014 to £2,013.

No surprises there either.

The Gunners have always had the most expensive tickets in recent years.

In January 2013 Manchester City returned 900 of their 3,000 away seat allocation for The Emirates after many fans refused to pay £62 for a ticket.

Four years earlier, Arsenal 'only' charged City fans £32.50 for the same seats.

The cheapest match-day ticket in the Premier League has risen by 15.8 per cent, 31.7 per cent in League One and 19 per cent in League Two.

Only in the Championship has it dropped - by 3.2 per cent.

The average Premier League season ticket

PREMIER LEAGUE PRICES

	CST	MEST	CMDT	MEMT	CDO	PROG	PIE	TEA	ASH	JSH
Man City	£299.00	£860.00	£37.00	£58.00	£45.80	£3.00	£4.00	£1.80	£55.00	£42.00
Burnley	£329.00	£685.00	£35.00	£42.00	£42.30	£3.00	£2.50	£1.80	£40.00	£32.00
Aston Villa	£335.00	£615.00	£22.00	£45.00	£30.40	£3.00	£3.30	£2.10	£48.00	£41.00
Stoke	£344.00	£609.00	£25.00	£50.00	£33.60	£3.50	£2.90	£2.20	£45.00	£30.00
West Brom	£349.00	£449.00	£25.00	£39.00	£33.00	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00	£44.99	£39.99
Leicester	£365.00	£730.00	£19.00	£50.00	£27.50	£3.00	£3.40	£2.10	£45.00	£33.00
Sunderland	£400.00	£525.00	£25.00	£40.00	£33.20	£3.00	£3.00	£2.20	£45.00	£35.00
Crystal Palace	£420.00	£720.00	£30.00	£40.00	£39.70	£3.50	£4.00	£2.20	£44.99	£34.99
Swansea	£429.00	£499.00	£35.00	£45.00	£43.50	£3.00	£3.50	£2.00	£45.00	£35.00
Everton	£444.00	£719.00	£33.00	£47.00	£41.50	£3.00	£3.20	£2.30	£50.00	£35.00
QPR	£499.00	£949.00	£25.00	£70.00	£33.40	£3.00	£3.30	£2.10	£44.99	£34.99
Hull	£501.00	£574.00	£16.00	£50.00	£24.00	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00	£39.99	£29.99
Newcastle	£525.00	£710.00	£15.00	£52.00	£23.30	£3.00	£3.00	£2.30	£44.99	£34.99
Man United	£532.00	£950.00	£36.00	£58.00	£45.50	£3.50	£3.50	£2.50	£55.00	£40.00
SAINTS	£541.00	£853.00	£32.00	£52.00	£42.50	£4.00	£4.00	£2.50	£50.00	£40.00
West Ham	£620.00	£940.00	£20.00	£75.00	£29.00	£3.50	£3.30	£2.20	£49.99	£39.99
Liverpool	£710.00	£869.00	£37.00	£59.00	£45.80	£3.00	£3.30	£2.50	£49.99	£41.99
Chelsea	£750.00	£1,250.00	£50.00	£87.00	£57.50	£3.00	£2.50	£2.00	£50.00	£40.00
Tottenham	£765.00	£1,895.00	£32.00	£81.00	£41.00	£3.50	£3.50	£2.00	£50.00	£40.00
Arsenal	£1,014.00	£2,013.00	£27.00	£97.00	£36.30	£3.50	£3.60	£2.20	£50.00	£40.00
AVERAGE	£508.55	£870.70	£28.80	£56.85	£37.44	£3.20	£3.29	£2.15	£47.40	£37.00

CHAMPIONSHIP PRICES

	CST	MEST	CMDT	MEMT	CDO	PROG	PIE	TEA	ASH	JSH
Cardiff City	£329.00	£689.00	£18.00	£40.00	£26.20	£3.00	£3.40	£1.80	£38.00	£28.00
Wigan Athletic	£280.00	£385.00	£15.00	£27.00	£22.20	£3.00	£2.40	£1.80	£39.99	£29.99
Rotherham	£450.00	£485.00	£25.00	£27.00	£33.00	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00	£39.99	£29.99
Sheffield Wed	£360.00	£595.00	£10.00	£32.00	£17.80	£3.00	£3.00	£1.80	£40.00	£30.00
Watford	£366.00	£497.00	£14.00	£31.00	£21.90	£3.00	£3.30	£1.60	£40.00	£30.00
Birmingham City	£230.00	£690.00	£15.00	£40.00	£23.10	£3.00	£2.90	£2.20	£40.00	£30.00
Huddersfield	£249.00	£539.00	£20.00	£33.00	£27.00	£2.00	£3.00	£2.00	£40.00	£32.00
Blackpool	£195.30	£359.00	£24.00	£40.00	£31.50	£3.00	£2.50	£2.00	£40.00	£30.00
Bournemouth	£480.00	£660.00	£25.00	£35.00	£33.50	£3.00	£3.50	£2.00	£40.00	£30.00
Brentford	£343.00	£458.00	£25.00	£29.00	£32.70	£3.00	£3.20	£1.50	£41.99	£32.99
Wolves	£320.00	£515.00	£23.00	£29.00	£30.80	£3.00	£3.00	£1.80	£42.00	£30.00
Leeds United	£445.00	£688.00	£20.00	£40.00	£28.20	£3.00	£3.10	£2.10	£43.00	£35.00
Millwall	£333.00	£514.00	£23.00	£30.00	£31.30	£3.00	£3.30	£2.00	£43.00	£35.00
Charlton	£150.00	£525.00	£15.00	£35.00	£23.50	£3.00	£3.50	£2.00	£44.00	£36.00
Bolton	£304.00	£474.00	£23.00	£35.00	£30.90	£3.00	£2.90	£2.00	£44.99	£34.00
Ipswich Town	£399.00	£805.00	£23.50	£34.50	£31.70	£3.00	£3.20	£2.00	£44.99	£34.99
Fulham	£299.00	£839.00	£25.00	£45.00	£33.90	£3.50	£3.50	£1.90	£44.99	£34.99
Derby County	£285.00	£610.00	£10.00	£35.00	£18.00	£3.00	£2.90	£2.10	£45.00	£35.00
Reading	£375.00	£445.00	£17.00	£35.00	£25.20	£3.00	£3.40	£1.80	£45.00	£35.00
NotmForest	£389.00	£617.00	£20.00	£35.00	£28.10	£3.00	£3.00	£2.10	£45.00	£35.00
Middlesbrough	£430.00	£585.00	£21.00	£33.00	£28.80	£3.00	£2.80	£2.00	£45.00	£38.00
Norwich	£499.50	£646.00	£25.00	£40.00	£33.10	£3.00	£3.00	£2.10	£45.00	£35.00
Brighton	£465.00	£715.00	£25.00	£42.00	£34.70	£3.50	£4.10	£2.10	£45.00	£35.00
Blackburn	£249.00	£429.00	£12.00	£38.00	£19.70	£3.00	£2.50	£2.20	£49.99	£34.99
AVERAGE	£342.70	£573.50	£19.73	£35.02	£27.78	£3.00	£3.10	£1.95	£42.79	£32.96

LEAGUE 1 PRICES

	CST	MEST	CMDT	MEMT	CDO	PROG	PIE	TEA	ASH	JSH
Coventry City	£252.00	£357.00	£20.00	£27.00	£28.50	£3.00	£3.50	£2.00	£34.99	£24.99
Walsall	£240.50	£410.00	£18.50	£24.00	£26.50	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00	£39.99	£24.99
Gillingham	£275.00	£425.00	£21.00	£24.00	£29.30	£3.00	£3.30	£2.00	£39.99	£26.99
Rochdale	£277.50	£370.00	£15.00	£20.00	£21.50	£3.00	£2.00	£1.50	£39.99	£29.99
Port Vale	£325.00	£380.00	£22.00	£26.00	£29.50	£3.00	£2.50	£2.00	£39.99	£29.99
Oldham	£325.00	£357.00	£20.00	£22.00	£27.80	£3.00	£2.80	£2.00	£39.99	£34.99
Crewe	£290.00	£325.00	£22.00	£22.00	£29.30	£3.00	£2.70	£1.60	£40.00	£28.99
Colchester	£320.00	£450.00	£22.00	£30.00	£28.80	£3.00	£2.80	£1.00	£40.00	£30.00
Fleetwood	£179.50	£250.00	£17.00	£24.00	£24.50	£3.00	£3.00	£1.50	£40.00	£30.00
Notts County	£315.00	£420.00	£22.00	£24.00	£29.50	£3.00	£2.70	£1.80	£40.00	£30.00
MK Dons	£312.00	£372.00	£20.00	£23.00	£28.00	£3.00	£3.20	£1.80	£40.00	£30.00
Yeovil	£299.00	£437.00	£25.00	£28.00	£33.00	£3.00	£3.20	£1.80	£40.00	£30.00
Chesterfield	£345.00	£550.00	£20.00	£24.00	£28.00	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00	£40.00	£30.00
Peterborough	£295.00	£480.00	£21.00	£26.00	£29.20	£3.00	£3.10	£2.10	£40.00	£30.00
Crawley Town	£342.00	£456.00	£18.00	£24.00	£25.50	£3.00	£3.00	£1.50	£40.00	£35.00
Scunthorpe	£288.00	£372.00	£22.00	£23.00	£29.30	£3.00	£2.80	£1.50	£44.00	£36.00
Leyton Orient	£220.00	£350.00	£23.00	£25.00	£30.00	£3.00	£2.30	£1.70	£44.00	£36.00
Preston	£315.00	£420.00	£21.00	£25.00	£28.70	£3.00	£2.60	£2.10	£44.00	£36.00
Doncaster	£299.00	£419.00	£20.00	£24.00	£28.10	£3.00	£3.00	£2.10	£44.00	£36.00
Barnsley	£270.00	£450.00	£20.00	£25.00	£28.10	£3.00	£3.00	£2.10	£44.00	£36.00
Bradford	£199.00	£299.00	£20.00	£20.00	£28.40	£3.00	£3.20	£2.20	£44.00	£36.00
Bristol City	£235.00	£395.00	£23.00	£25.00	£31.20	£3.00	£3.10	£2.10	£44.99	£29.99
Sheffield United	£310.00	£490.00	£20.00	£26.00	£27.90	£3.00	£3.30	£1.60	£45.00	£35.00
Swindon Town	£310.50	£415.00	£18.00	£27.00	£26.40	£3.00	£3.40	£2.00	£45.00	£35.00
AVERAGE	£284.96	£402.04	£20.44	£24.50	£28.21	£3.00	£2.94	£1.83	£41.41	£31.75

Saints Spotlight

PAY THE PRICE...



LEAGUE 2 PRICES

	CST	MEST	CMDT	MEMT	CDO	PROG	PIE	TEA	ASH	JSH
Bury	£250.00	£250.00	£15.00	£15.00	£23.40	£3.00	£3.20	£2.20	£39.99	£29.99
Burton Albion	£255.00	£332.00	£15.00	£18.00	£21.80	£3.00	£2.50	£1.30	£39.99	£28.99
Tranmere	£255.00	£342.00	£15.00	£18.00	£22.00	£3.00	£2.50	£1.50	£40.00	£30.00
Morecambe	£219.00	£419.00	£16.00	£24.00	£23.60	£3.00	£3.00	£1.60	£40.00	£30.00
Cambridge d	£240.00	£400.00	£16.00	£20.00	£23.50	£3.00	£3.00	£1.50	£40.00	£30.00
AFC Wimbledon	£260.00	£430.00	£16.00	£25.00		£3.00		£1.30	£45.00	£25.00
Cheltenham	£350.00	£414.00	£16.00	£21.00	£24.20	£3.00	£3.20	£2.00	£36.99	£28.99
Wycombe	£242.00	£452.00	£17.00	£25.00	£24.60	£3.00	£3.00	£1.60	£40.00	£35.00
Newport County	£250.00	£380.00	£17.00	£22.00	£24.00	£3.50	£2.50	£1.00	£34.95	£24.95
Exeter City	£275.00	£490.00	£17.00	£26.00	£24.10	£3.00	£2.60	£1.50	£40.00	£30.00
Stevenage	£279.00	£395.00	£17.00	£24.00	£23.50	£3.00	£2.50	£1.00	£39.99	£29.99
Dagenham	£179.00	£400.00	£18.00	£21.00	£24.70	£3.00	£2.50	£1.20	£42.00	£30.00
York City	£275.00	£412.00	£18.00	£21.00	£25.80	£3.00	£3.00	£1.80	£44.00	£34.00
Carlisle United	£305.00	£400.00	£19.00	£22.00	£25.00	£2.00	£2.50	£1.50	£40.00	£30.00
Hartlepool	£180.00	£399.00	£20.00	£25.00	£28.00	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00	£44.00	£36.00
Accrington	£200.00	£250.00	£20.00	£20.00	£26.50	£3.00	£2.50	£1.00	£39.99	£29.90
Oxford United	£254.00	£435.00	£20.00	£24.00	£28.10	£3.00	£3.00	£2.10	£44.00	£36.00
Mansfield	£270.00	£330.00	£20.00	£22.00	£27.00	£3.00	£2.50	£1.50	£40.00	£35.00
Portsmouth	£280.00	£370.00	£20.00	£20.00	£27.00	£3.00	£3.00	£1.00	£39.99	£34.99
Shrewsbury	£285.00	£380.00	£20.00	£22.00	£27.90	£3.00	£3.20	£1.70	£39.99	£29.99
Luton Town	£330.00	£400.00	£20.00	£20.00	£27.50	£3.00	£3.00	£1.50	£40.00	£30.00
Southend	£350.00	£350.00	£21.00	£21.00	£28.30	£3.00	£2.60	£1.70	£44.00	£36.00
Northampton	£249.00	£410.00	£22.00	£22.00	£30.20	£3.00	£3.10	£2.10	£39.99	£29.99
Plymouth Argyle	£299.00	£380.00	£22.00	£22.00	£29.80	£3.00	£2.80	£2.00	£39.99	£29.99
AVERAGE	£263.79	£384.17	£18.21	£21.67	£25.67	£2.98	£2.81	£1.57	£40.62	£31.03

CONFERENCE PREMIER PRICES

	CST	MEST	CMDT	MEMT	CDO	PROG	PIE	TEA	ASH	JSH
Eastleigh	£105.00	£171.00	£12.00	£15.00	£17.80	£2.50	£2.00	£1.30	£33.00	£22.00
Dartford	£250.00	£300.00	£16.00	£16.00	£22.00	£2.50	£2.50	£1.00	£34.00	£32.00
Kidderminster	£260.00	£360.00	£17.00	£17.00	£26.00	£3.00	£4.50	£1.50	£34.00	£29.00
Altrincham	£240.00	£290.00	£14.00	£15.00	£20.50	£2.50	£2.50	£1.50	£35.00	£30.00
Braintree	£170.00	£340.00	£15.00	£18.00	£19.30	£2.50	£1.00	£0.80	£35.00	£30.00
Telford United	£285.00	£315.00	£15.00	£15.00	£21.50	£2.50	£2.50	£1.50	£36.99	£26.99
Gateshead	£280.00	£300.00	£15.00	£15.00	£22.10	£3.00	£2.60	£1.50	£37.95	£27.95
Nuneaton Town	£240.00	£295.00	£14.00	£14.00	£21.00	£3.00	£2.50	£1.50	£38.00	£29.00
Dover	£270.00	£315.00	£15.00	£15.00	£21.20	£2.50	£2.50	£1.20	£38.00	£32.00
Aldershot Town	£299.00	£361.00	£17.00	£19.00	£24.00	£3.00	£2.50	£1.50	£38.00	£28.00
Bristol Rovers	£225.00	£410.00	£18.00	£26.00	£25.30	£3.00	£3.00	£1.30	£39.00	£29.50
Southport	£172.00	£345.00	£10.00	£15.00	£16.00	£2.50	£2.00	£1.50	£39.95	£34.95
Halifax Town	£319.00	£319.00	£17.00	£17.00	£23.80	£3.00	£2.80	£1.00	£39.95	£33.00
Wrexham	£229.00	£259.00	£15.00	£19.00	£22.40	£3.00	£2.60	£1.80	£39.99	£34.99
Woking FC	£245.00	£275.00	£15.00	£15.00	£22.00	£3.00	£2.50	£1.50	£39.99	£29.99
Welling United	£220.00	£285.00	£15.00	£15.00		£3.00		£1.00	£39.99	£30.00
Grimsby Town	£285.00	£378.00	£16.00	£18.00	£23.60	£3.00	£2.80	£1.80	£39.99	£34.99
Alfreton Town	£289.00	£310.00	£18.00	£18.00	£24.20	£3.00	£2.20	£1.00	£39.99	£29.99
Macclesfield	£289.00	£365.00	£14.00	£18.00	£21.60	£3.00	£2.90	£1.70	£40.00	£30.00
Forest Greens	£240.00	£340.00	£15.00	£19.00		£3.00		£1.20	£40.00	£35.00
Chester	£255.00	£342.00	£15.00	£18.00	£21.50	£2.50	£3.00	£1.00	£40.00	£35.00
Torquay United	£295.00	£415.00	£17.00	£21.00	£24.20	£3.00	£3.00	£1.20	£40.00	£25.00
Lincoln City	£245.00	£335.00	£18.00	£18.00	£25.70	£3.00	£2.80	£1.90	£44.00	£36.00
Barnet	£220.00	£320.00	£17.00	£23.00		£3.00		£1.55	£49.90	£39.90
AVERAGE	£246.96	£322.71	£15.42	£17.46	£22.18	£2.83	£2.60	£1.36	£38.86	£31.05

now costs £508 compared to £138 in the Bundesliga.

Bayern Munich fans can pay as little as £109.65 to watch one of the best teams in modern football history.

In Spain, Barcelona fans can get a season ticket for just £103.38.

That's cheaper than a season ticket to watch Eastleigh or any of the Spitfires' Conference Premier rivals!

Manchester City have the cheapest season ticket in the Premier League starting at £299.

That is the same price as Conference Premier club Aldershot's cheapest season ticket, and only £10 more than Macclesfield's cheapest!

When you look at it that way, then some Premier League offer great value for money.

A season ticket at Conference club Torquay can cost as much as £415. You can buy cheaper season tickets at seven Premier League clubs.

Yes, some of the top flight season ticket prices are ridiculous. Come on, £2,104 for a season ticket at The Emirates! £1,895 for a season ticket at Tottenham! £1,250 for a season ticket at Chelsea!

But those are London clubs and they charge London prices. Anybody who has been to the capital knows you need a bigger wallet to have fun there than anywhere else.

Entertainment and fun cost these days, and not just in football.

A day out for a family of four at any major theme/amusement park in the country won't get you much change, if any, from £100.

I recently paid over £70 for two tickets to go and watch the Rock of Ages musical at Southampton's Mayflower theatre.

So what is 'cheap' these days, really?

Only a few weeks ago I paid £21 to sit down and watch a fourth division game, Dagenham v Exeter City.

Some might say that is a lot of money to watch League 2 football, and I wouldn't disagree.

Certainly compared to paying £15 for the cheapest matchday seat at Newcastle, £16 for the cheapest one at Hull or £19 for the cheapest one at Leicester.

Again, for comparison purposes, the cheapest matchday ticket at Bristol Rovers is £18. The cheapest at FC Halifax, Torquay, Aldershot, Barnet and Kidderminster is £17

And lest we forget, all those prices are to watch Conference Premier football.

This week's survey worked out the cheapest matchday out comprising a ticket, programme, pie and cup of tea.

Kidderminster was the dearest in the Conference, at £26. Leicester's was only £1.50 more and that is to watch football four divisions higher.

The most expensive matchday ticket at Bristol Rovers is £26. You can buy a cheaper one at nine Premier League stadiums.

So who is fleecing the fans here?

It's not cheap to watch football in any of the top five divisions. That's not a criticism of the clubs, it's just stating a fact.

Football clubs are no more guilty than other organisations or clubs, pubs or restaurants in charging extravagant sums compared to the 'good old days', whatever they were.

I still find it hard to believe I paid £21 to watch a fourth division game at Dagenham the other day.

But go to any pub with a few friends and a round of drinks could cost that much, and unless you drank more slowly than anyone I've ever known they wouldn't last 90 minutes.

That's life in the year 2014.

REP OF IRELAND MOST GOALS

Robbie Keane 1998-.....	65	137
Niall Quinn 1986-2002.....	21	91
Frank Stapleton 1977-1990 ...	20	71
Don Givens 1969-1981.....	19	56
Tony Cascarino 1985-2000 ...	19	88
John Aldridge 1986-1997.....	19	69
Noel Cantwell 1953-1967.....	14	36
Kevin Doyle 2006-.....	14	61
Gerry Daly 1973-1986.....	13	48
Jimmy Dunne 1930-1939.....	13	15
Ian Harte 1996-2007.....	12	63
Shane Long 2007-.....	11	50

SCOTLAND MOST CAPS

Kenny Dalglish 1971-1986.....	102
Jim Leighton 1982-1998.....	91
Alex McLeish 1980-1993.....	77
Paul McStay 1983-1997.....	76
Tom Boyd 1990-2001.....	72
Kenny Miller 2001-2013.....	69
David Weir 1997-2010.....	67
Christian Dailly 1997-2008.....	67
Willie Miller 1975-1989.....	65
Darren Fletcher 2003-.....	64

SCOTLAND MOST GOALS

	Gls	Caps
Denis Law 1958-1974.....	30	55
Kenny Dalglish 1971-1986....	30	102
Hughie Gallacher 1924-1935..	23	20
Lawrie Reilly 1948-1957.....	22	38
Ally McCoist 1986-1998.....	19	61
Kenny Miller 2001-2013.....	18	69

MOST WELSH CAPS

Neville Southall 1982-1997.....	92
Gary Speed 1990-2004.....	85
Craig Bellamy 1998-2013.....	78
Dean Saunders 1986-2001.....	75
Peter Nicholas 1979-1991.....	73
Ian Rush 1980-1996.....	73
Mark Hughes 1984-1999.....	72
Joey Jones 1975-1986.....	72

MOST WELSH GOALS

	Gls	Caps
Ian Rush.....	28	73
Trevor Ford.....	23	38
Ivor Allchurch.....	23	68
Dean Saunders.....	22	75
Craig Bellamy.....	19	78
Robert Earnshaw.....	16	58
Cliff Jones.....	16	59
Mark Hughes.....	16	72
John Charles.....	15	38
Gareth Bale.....	14	47
John Hartson.....	14	51

MOST NORTHERN IRELAND CAPS

Pat Jennings 1964-1986.....	119
David Healy 2000-2013.....	95
Aaron Hughes 1998-.....	92
Mal Donaghy 1980-1994.....	91
Sammy McIlroy 1972-1987.....	88
Maik Taylor 1999-2011.....	88
Keith Gillespie 1995-2008.....	86
Jimmy Nicholl 1976-1986.....	73
Michael Hughes 1992-2004.....	71
Steven Davis 2005-.....	70
David McCreery 1976-1990.....	67
Chris Baird 2003-.....	67

MOST IRISH GOALS

	Gls	Caps
David Healy 2000-2013.....	36	95
Billy Gillespie 1913-1932.....	13	25
Colin Clarke 1986-1993.....	13	38
Joe Bambrick 1928-1940.....	12	11
Gerry Armstrong 1977-1986...	12	63
Jimmy Quinn 1985-1996.....	12	46
Iain Dowie 1990-2000.....	12	59

Saints Spotlight



Phillips one of the best

ONLY four British players have ever won the Golden Boot for finishing as the top scorer in a European top flight league.

Former Saint Kevin Phillips is the only English striker to have lifted the silverware, after netting 30 goals for Sunderland in his debut Premier League campaign in 1999/2000.

Scottish star Ally McCoist is the only Brit to win the award twice, in successive seasons for Glasgow Rangers in the early 1990s.

That leaves two Welshman to have been crowned top gun in Europe.

One is very well known, Liverpool legend Ian Rush, the top scoring Welshman in international history.

The other is less well known, Porthmadoc's David Taylor. He struck 43 goals in 38 League of Wales games in 1993/94 to top the charts.

Taylor never enjoyed such glories again, and he never scored more than 14 goals in a Welsh League season in his career!

Since the 1996-97 season,



GOLDEN BOOT WINNER: Kevin Phillips.

the organisers have awarded the Golden Shoe based on a points system that allows players in tougher leagues to win even if they score fewer goals than a player in a weaker league.

The weightings are determined by the league's ranking on the UEFA coefficients, which in turn depend on the results of each league's clubs in European competition over the previous five seasons.

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo shared the Golden Shoe with Luis Suarez for his 31 goals last season.

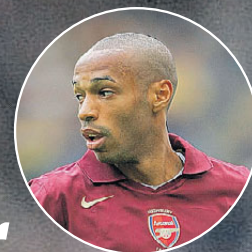
Ronaldo has won the Shoe three times in recent years, but his best ever league season in terms of goals saw him only finish second.

The Portuguese ace belted 46 La Liga goals in 2011/12 and still didn't win the silverware, as Barcelona's Lionel Messi struck a record 50 times in the same league.

Remarkably, Ronaldo's tally

AMERICAN DREAM

Bradley Wright-Phillips is closing on a scoring record in USA's Major League Soccer



THIERRY HENRY

SAINTS flop Bradley Wright-Phillips is on the verge of setting a new goalscoring record in the United States of America.

The striker's goal for New York Red Bulls against Toronto last weekend was his 25th in only 30 Major Soccer League games in 2014.

Wright-Phillips now has two more regular season Eastern Conference matches left as he bids to break the existing league record of 27.

New York face Montreal this Sunday and Columbus next week as they bid to book their place in the end of season play-offs.

Wright-Phillips, who cost Saints £500,000 from Manchester City in 2006, is chasing the current MSL record of 27 goals scored by San Jose's Chris Wondolowski in 2012 and Roy Lassiter (Tampa Bay) in 1999.

Another ex-Saint, Stern John, scored 26 goals for Columbus Crew in only 27 games in 1998, earning him a move to Nottingham Forest.

Wright-Phillips, 29, has plundered three hat-tricks this season.

In April he scored three in a 4-0 win against Houston and the following month repeated the feat in a 5-4 home loss to Chicago Fire.

Last month he struck his third triple in a 4-1 victory over Seattle Sounders.

Wright-Phillips, who was released by Saints in the summer of 2009 with the club in administration, has already established a New York MSL goals record.

The previous record of 19 was held by Colombian Juan Pablo Angel, who spent six years with Aston Villa between 2001-07.

In addition to his league scoring exploits, Wright-Phillips also scored New York's winner in a friendly against Arsenal in



FLASHBACK: Bradley Wright-Phillips scores a great header in Saints' 2-1 win at Reading in October 2008 – one of his 25 league and cup goals for the club.

August. He then netted the equaliser in another friendly against the mighty Bayern Munich while playing for the MLS All-Stars side.

Wright-Phillips only scored 25 goals for Saints in his three seasons at St Mary's, from 66 league and cup starts plus another 55 appearances off the bench.

As hard as it is to believe for Saints fans, Wright-Phillips has easily outscored Arsenal legend Thierry Henry in 2014.

Henry has so far managed 10 goals in 29 Red Bulls appearances, but has also provided 14 assists – compared to Wright-Phillips' two.

Republic of Ireland star Robbie Keane is currently the third top leading marksman in the MSL in 2014 with 19 goals

from 28 games for LA Galaxy.

Like Henry, Keane has also showcased his all-round skills by claiming 14 assists.

Elsewhere, ex-England striker Jermain Defoe has bagged 11 goals in 19 starts for Toronto.

New York, who have played in all 18 seasons of the MSL, are aiming to win the title for the first time.

They can also call on the talents of former Everton star Tim Cahill, ex-Manchester United trainee Richard Eckerley and one-time Charlton midfielder Lloyd Sam.

Currently the Bulls are the only MSL franchise in the New York metropolitan area, but that is about to change.

As from next year, the New York City FC franchise will

play competitively.

They will be based at the Yankee Stadium in The Bronx, while the Red Bulls will continue to be based in Harrison, New Jersey.

New York City are owned by Manchester City FC and the New York Yankees baseball team.

Former Manchester City player Claudio Reyna is the team's sporting director, and he has already signed up Frank Lampard and David Villa for the 2015 season.

Wright-Phillips, therefore, has very stiff competition for the headlines next year ...

Saints Spotlight

FOR AN EX-SAINT

BWP is following in a footsteps of famous ex-Saints in America



FIRST there was Pele.

Then there was another Brazilian legend, Carlos Alberto.

Then there was another World Cup winning skipper, Franz Beckenbauer.

In the same team was Italian international striker Georgio Chinaglia, who scored at the rate of almost a goal a game in almost 400 appearances. These stellar names were watched regularly by crowds of over 40,000.

Those were the star attractions back in the 1970s at the New York Cosmos.

Now, the city's soccer headline-grabber is a man whose name is synonymous with frustration and disappointment at Southampton.

Bradley Wright-Phillips.

The Coca-Cola Kid.

Signed partly with money Saints had been given in the summer of 2006 by the soft drinks giant for winning a fans' competition, Wright-Phillips spent three years at St Mary's.

That time co-incided with the club losing to Derby on penalties in the Championship play off final and, two years later, the twin nightmare of administration and relegation to the third tier of English football. It is hard to think of Wright-Phillips playing a starring role in one of the great cities in the world, but that is what he's doing.

His goals provide New York Red Bulls with the hope they can win the Major Soccer League title for the first time.

If they did, it would be the first time the city has reigned supreme in soccer since the Cosmos' glory days of the mid to late 1970s and early 80s.

The North American Soccer League was big news back then. The league attracted the world's biggest names.

Pele's decision to join the Cosmos opened the floodgates. George Best signed for Los Angeles Aztecs in 1976, moving on to Fort

Lauderdale two years later. Dutch legend Johann Cruyff signed for the Aztecs in 1979, the same year the club appointed Rinus Michels as head coach.

Michels had coached Ajax and Barcelona and in 1988 guided a Dutch team containing Saints boss Ronald Koeman to the European Championship title.

Many British players were also tempted to play in the summer NASL.

Charlton striker Mike Flanagan outshone Pele when he was voted Most Valuable Player in 1978 after hitting 30 goals in 28 games for the New England Tea Men.

Ex-Derby star Roger Davies won the MVP two years later while at Seattle Sounders, while former Brighton and Nottingham Forest winger Peter Davies was awarded the honour in 1983 during his time at Seattle.

Former England striker Dennis Tueart and Coventry's Steve Hunt also turned out for the Cosmos alongside the stellar names.

Three former Saints – Alan Ball, Peter Osgood and Frank Worthington – all played for the Philadelphia Fury, as did Leeds legend Johnny Giles.

Ex-Saints defender Manny Andrzejewski spent a couple of years with the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

The Florida club once asked Saints boss Lawrie McMenemy to manage them, but he turned them down.

In many ways, though, the undoubted star of the NASL's glory years was Cosmos striker Chinaglia.

He struck almost 400 goals for the club, including 50 in 1980 – 32 in 32 regular season league games and 18 more in just seven play-off ties.

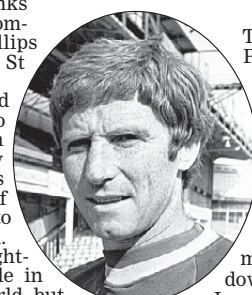
The Lazio legend scored seven goals in a game, against Tulsa in 1980 and the Chicago Sting a year later.

They were two of the 16 games in which he scored three or more goals.

Wright-Phillips, therefore, has a long way to go before New Yorkers with long memories talk of his scoring exploits in the same breath as Chinaglia's ...



PELE



BALL



OSGOOD

Did You Know?

Golden boots

from facing page

that season would have seen him the Golden Boot/Shoe in every other year since its inauguration in the late 1960s!

EUROPEAN GOLDEN BOOT/SOEWINNERS

1967-68 Eusébio (Benfica)	43
1968-69 Petar Zhekov (CSKA Sofia)	36
1969-70 Gerd Müller (Bayern M)	38
1970-71 Josip Skoblar (Marseille)	44
1971-72 Gerd Müller (Bayern M)	40
1972-73 Eusébio (Benfica)	40
1973-74 Héctor Yazalde (Sport CP)	46
1974-75 Dudu Georgescu (D Bucharest)	33
1975-76 Sotiris Kaiafas (Omonia Nicosia)	39
1976-77 Dudu Georgescu (D Bucharest)	37
1977-78 Hans Krankl (Rapid Vienna)	41
1978-79 Kees Kist (AZ Alkmaar)	34
1979-80 Erwin Vandenbergh (Lierse)	39
1980-81 Georgi Slavkov (Botev Plovdiv)	31
1981-82 Wim Kieft (Ajax)	32
1982-83 Fernando Gomes (Porto)	36



GOLDEN SHOE WINNER: Luis Suarez.

1983-84 Ian Rush (Liverpool)	32
1984-85 Fernando Gomes (Porto)	39
1985-86 Marco van Basten (Ajax)	37
1986-87 Rodion Cămătaru (D Bucharest)	44
1987-88 Tanju Çolak (Galatasaray)	39
1988-89 Dorin Mateuș (D Bucharest)	43
1989-90 Hugo Sánchez (Real Madrid)	38
Hristo Stoichkov (CSKA Sofia)	38
1990-91 Darko Pančev (Red Star)	34
1991-92 Ally McCoist (Rangers)	34
1992-93 Ally McCoist (Rangers)	34
1993-94 David Taylor (Porthmadog)	43
1994-95 Arsen Avetisyan (Homenetmen, Armenia)	39
1995-96 Zviad Endeladze (Margveti, Georgia)	40
1996-97 Ronaldo (Barcelona)	34
1997-98 Nikos Machlas (Vitesse)	34
1998-99 Mário Jardel (Porto)	36
1999-2000 Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)	30
2000-01 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)	35
2001-02 Mário Jardel (Sporting CP)	42
2002-03 Roy Makaay (Deportivo)	29
2003-04 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)	30
2004-05 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)	25
Diego Forlán (Villarreal)	25
2005-06 Luca Toni (Fiorentina)	31
2006-07 Francesco Totti (Roma)	26
2007-08 Cristiano Ronaldo (Man Utd)	31
2008-09 Diego Forlán (A Madrid)	32
2009-10 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	34
2010-11 Cristiano Ronaldo (R Madrid)	40
2011-12 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	50
2012-13 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	46
2013-14 Cristiano Ronaldo (R Madrid)	31
2013/14 Luis Suarez (Liverpool)	31

RONALDO is leading the way in the European Golden Shoe running again in 2014/15, having struck 13 goals in his opening SIX La Liga games for Real Madrid!

Non-league Football

Crowds are on the rise

EASTLEIGH went into this week-end's home clash with Nuneaton boasting an average attendance home increase of almost 132 per cent this season.

The Spitfires have seen their average league crowd at the Silverlake Stadium rise from 680 last season in the Blue Square South League to 1,529 in the Conference Premier this term.

Of the other top 50 average attendances in non league football this term, Margate are the only one apart from Eastleigh who have more than doubled their attendances.

TOP 50 non league average attendances

		13/14	14/15	%+/-
Bristol Rovers	Conf Premier	6421	5640	-12.16
Wrexham	Conf Premier	2993	3923	31.07
Grimsby Town	Conf Premier	3568	3387	-5.07
Lincoln City	Conf Premier	2354	2817	19.67
Stockport County	Conf North	2571	2463	-4.20
Chester	Conf Premier	2366	2291	-3.17
Aldershot Town	Conf Premier	1947	2181	12.02
Torquay United	Conf Premier	2642	2152	-18.55
Kidderminster	Conf Premier	2035	1931	-5.11
FC Utd Manchester	Evo-s North Pr	1922	1903	-0.99
FC Halifax Town	Conf Premier	1597	1717	7.51
Barnet Conference	Premier	1705	1628	-4.52
Eastleigh	Conf Premier	680	1577	131.91
Maidstone United	Ryman Premier	1821	1576	-13.45
AFC Telford Utd	Conf Premier	1688	1575	-6.69
Woking	Conf Premier	1615	1565	-3.10
Forest Green Rovers	Conf Premier	1195	1529	27.95
Barrow	Conf North	736	1484	101.63
Gateshead	Conf Premier	886	1384	56.21
Macclesfield Town	Conf Premier	1512	1326	-12.30
Altrincham	Conf Premier	863	1244	44.15
Dartford	Conf Premier	1251	1113	-11.03
Boston United	Conf North	1088	1027	-5.61
Chorley	Conf North	949	1020	7.48
Darlington 1883	Evo-s North Div 1N	1097	943	-14.04
Ebbsfleet United	Conf South	909	942	3.63
Braintree Town	Conf Premier	994	938	-5.63
Dulwich Hamlet	Ryman Premier	667	916	37.33
Southport	Conf Premier	1033	912	-11.71
Dover Athletic	Conf Premier	665	905	36.09
Weymouth	Conf Premier	523	883	68.83
Margate	Ryman Premier	325	866	166.46
Bromley	Conf South	629	837	33.07
Nuneaton Town	Conf Premier	1209	825	-31.76
Spennymoor	Evo-s North Div 1N	430	818	90.23
Guernsey	Ryman Division 1 S	986	780	-20.89
Tamworth	Conf North	978	670	-31.49
Lowestoft Town	Conf North	515	667	29.51
Wealdstone	Conf South	680	660	-2.94
Welling United	Conf Premier	811	652	-19.61
Chelmsford City	Conf South	620	642	3.55
Alfreton Town	Conf Premier	805	639	-20.62
Kettering Town	Conf Central Div	624	628	0.64
Stalybridge Celtic	Conf North	436	625	43.35
Hednesford Town	Conf North	622	581	-6.59
Sutton United	Conf South	644	559	-13.20
Harvart & Waterlooville	Conf South	551	552	0.18
St Albans City	Conf South	515	551	6.99
Eastbourne Borough	Conf South	545	549	0.73
Gosport Borough	Conf South	444	531	19.59

OTHERS

Basingstoke Town	Conf South	312	529	69.55
Dorchester Town	Conf Premier	390	378	-3.08
Farnborough	Conf South	386	373	-3.37
AFC Totton	Conf S & West	311	313	0.64
Poole Town	Conf Premier	306	284	-7.19
Wimborne Town	Conf S & West	194	177	-8.76
Bashley	Conf S & West	147	149	1.36
Sholing	Conf S & West	134	109	-18.66

Bees have a large

EASTLEIGH'S 4-1 win over FC Halifax last weekend established the Spitfires as one of the top scoring teams in the Conference Premier.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at who has been scoring the goals for Eastleigh and their fifth tier rivals.

BARNET - 36 GOALS

Barnet are the Conference Premier's highest scorers.

A former £2.5m player has helped them to the top of the table as they seek to win promotion to the Football League for a third time.

Winger Lee Cook cost QPR £250,000 when they signed him from Watford in the summer of 2004.

After three years at Loftus Road, Cook signed for Fulham for £2.5m. He never played a league game for the Cottagers and after a few loan spells returned to QPR for £1.2m in 2009.

Cook signed for Barnet last summer and scored twice on his debut in a 5-0 win at Chester.

He has struck eight times in his first 12 starts, plus two off the bench.

Top scorer at the Bees is John Akinde, who was 19 when Bristol City paid £140,000 to sign him in 2008.

Akinde only made one league start for the Robins, plus 15 as a sub, before joining Crawley permanently in 2011.

He was a regular bench-warmer at the Sussex club, too, starting just seven league games in two seasons with 24 sub appearances.

Akinde moved to Portsmouth in January 2013, but left Fratton Park at the end of 2012/13 after failing to score in 13 League 1 outings for the relegated club.

Moving down into the Conference in the summer of 2013 with Alfreton, Akinde struck 18 times in 42 appearances.

Martin Allen, who last March was appointed Barnet boss for the FOURTH time in his colourful managerial career, swooped to sign Akinde after the player ended last season by scoring in eight of Alfreton's last 11 league games.

Akinde, helped by a hat-trick in a 5-0 thumping of Altrincham, has nine goals in his first 16 league appearances.

Elsewhere, a third Allen summer signing has also been scoring regularly.

Charlie MacDonald made his name with Ebbsfleet in the Conference Premier in the mid-noughties before moving into the Football League, where he scored 40 league goals for Brentford in three seasons.



GOALS: Barnet striker John Akinde.



GET IN: Eastleigh striker Stuart Fleetwood celebrates his goal against Halifax.

MacDonald moved on to MK Dons, Leyton Orient and Oldham before signing for Barnet last summer.

He also scored on his debut at Chester and has struck five times in his first eight league starts.

Spanish midfielder Luisma Villa has also weighed in with four goals already, matching the total he scored in his first season at the club in 2013/14 after arriving from Noja.

Barnet are aiming to win promotion from the Conference for a third time, having previously gone up in

1991 under Barry Fry and 2005 under Paul Fairclough.

WOKING - 29

Scott Rendell is again showing his worth as a Conference Premier striker.

He has belted 12 goals in his first 15 league games to help the Surrey club into a surprise second place.

Nine of those goals have arrived in just

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Non-league Football

buzz about them



three matches. He started 2014/15 with a brace in a victory at Alfreton before smashing four goals in a 6-1 home slaying of Dover and weighing in with a hat-trick in a 5-2 romp at Southport.

Rendell was one of the league's top marksmen last term, with 17 goals in 34 league games.

He first made his name in the fifth tier of English football in 2008/09, hammering 15 goals in 27 matches to help Cambridge United to the

play-off final, where they lost to Torquay.

Rendell, pictured right, was on loan from Peterborough United at the time, but never settled at London Road and moved on to become a semi regular scorer for the likes of Wycombe and Torquay.

He dropped back down into the Conference to sign for Luton Town in 2012/13, scoring the goal that gave the Hatters a famous FA Cup win at then Premier League

Norwich that season.

Second top scorer at The Cards is ex-Havant & Waterlooville loanee Giuseppe Sole, who had a short spell in Hampshire in 2010/11 while on loan from Newport County.

Though he has been largely used as a sub so far – seven starts and eight appearances off the bench – Sole has still weighed in with seven goals.

The north east club have been boosted this season by the return of striker Jon Shaw.

He was the man who scored 17 goals for the club in 2010/11 and a whopping 29 in 45 appearances in 2011/12.

That form earned him a move to then Conference giants Luton, but he only managed eight goals in two seasons at Kenilworth Road (the second of which was marred by injuries).

Shaw returned to Gateshead in the summer and has already managed six goals in his first 10 league games.

Striker Daniel Wright is on loan to Gateshead from league rivals Forest Green Rovers, and has five goals in ten games.

He is on course to quickly match the eight-goal haul it took him 40 games to reach for Forest Green last term.

Midfielder Marcus Maddison started the current season with four goals in his opening five league games.

He was then signed by League 1 high-fliers Peterborough United, for whom he has already scored four league and cup strikes.

TORQUAY - 27 GOALS

Top scorer so far is 21-year-old midfielder Luke Young.



A summer signing from Plymouth Argyle, he has netted five times in 15 starts.

Winger Louis Briscoe, another close season arrival from Mansfield, has four goals from eight starts plus one as a sub.

Briscoe is aiming to win promotion from the Conference Premier for the second time in three seasons, having netted eight goals to help the Stags claim the title in 2012/13.

The previous season he had

GATESHEAD - 28

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

EASTLEIGH FIXTURES 2014/15

AUGUST

9 Nuneaton (A)	.....W3-0
Reason, Stanley, Strevens	
14 Aldershot (H)	.....W1-0
Wright	
16 Gateshead (H)	.....D2-2
Strevens, Midson	
23 Dover (A)	.....L1-2
Midson	
25 Welling (H)	.....W3-1
Constable 2, Evans	
30 Macclesfield (A)	.....L0-2

SEPTEMBER

6 Southport (H)	.....W2-1
Reason, OG	
9 Dartford (A)	.....D2-2
Collins, Constable	
13 Altrincham (A)	.....D3-3
Reid, McAllister, Reason	
16 Forest Green (H)	.....D2-2
Midson, Constable	
20 Braintree (H)	.....W1-0
Reason	
27 Wrexham (A)	.....L0-3
30 Bristol Rovers (H)	.....D1-1
Collins	

OCTOBER

4 Barnet (A)	.....L 0-1
11 FC Halifax Town (H)	.....W 4-1
Reason, Green, Fleetwood, Strevens	
18 Nuneaton Town	.....H
25 Kidderminster (FAC 4Q)	.....A

NOVEMBER

1 Chester	.....H
11 Forest Green Rovers	.....A
15 Lincoln City	.....H
22 Aldershot Town	.....A
29 Torquay United	.....A

DECEMBER

2 Dartford	.....H
6 Grimsby Town	.....H
9 Alfreton Town	.....A
20 AFC Telford United	.....A
26 Woking	.....H
28 Braintree Town	.....A

JANUARY

1 Woking	.....A
4 Altrincham	.....H
17 FC Halifax Town	.....A
24 Wrexham	.....H
31 Kidderminster	.....A

FEBRUARY

2 AFC Telford United	.....H
10 Southport	.....A
14 Torquay United	.....H
21 Chester	.....A
28 Macclesfield Town	.....H

MARCH

7 Bristol Rovers	.....A
14 Barnet	.....H
21 Grimsby Town	.....A
28 Gateshead	.....A

APRIL

4 Dover Athletic	.....H
6 Welling United	.....A
11 Alfreton Town	.....H
18 Lincoln City	.....A
25 Kidderminster	.....H

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS IN MONDAY'S SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO

Who has the best league?

BAYERN Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is convinced the Premier League is running scared at the success of the Bundesliga.

The increasing strength of the German domestic game is set to be borne out by more success in top-level European club competition this season.

Here, in the best traditions of meetings between the two nations, the *Sports Pink* examine whether the Premier League or the Bundesliga would come up best in a shoot-out for superiority:

ENGLAND: While England can hark back to 19th century clashes with cloth caps and pigs' bladders, Germany were relative latecomers to the football party. Their national federation was only formed in 1900, and they played their first competitive game in 1908 - 28 years after England.



GREATEST DAY: England win the 1966 World Cup against Germany.

GERMANY: The Germans have more than made up the lost ground since. They have won four World Cups - including this year's in Brazil - and three European Championships. England still hark tirelessly back to their solitary major tournament success in 1966.

ENGLAND: England can boast 12 winners of the European Cup and Champions League, as opposed to Germany's seven. No German club other than Bayern Munich has won the tournament since Borussia Dortmund in 1997.

● cont on facing page

Non-league Football

EASTLEIGH ONE OF

from page 21

struck 11 times as Mansfield had fallen at the play-off semi final stage.

Ryan Bowman was another summer signing as the Gulls found themselves back in the Conference after a five-year absence, has four goals from 12 starts.

He netted eight goals for York in League 2 last term - from 22 starts plus 15 off the bench - after scoring 15 times for Hereford United in the 2012/13 Conference Premier campaign.

FC HALIFAX - 28

The Yorkshire club possessed the Conference Premier's top marksman last season.

Lee Gregory blasted 29 goals in just 36 appearances in his debut season with the club.

That earned him a summer move to Championship club Millwall, for whom he recently netted his first league goal in a 3-1 home loss to

Birmingham. To replace Gregory, the Shaymen signed Scott Boden who had netted 18 Conference Premier goals in 40 appearances for Macclesfield last season.

The former Chesterfield trainee has started well, hitting eight goals in his opening 16 starts.

The latest strike was the penalty which put Halifax ahead at Eastleigh last weekend, before the Spitfires struck back to win 4-1.

GRIMSBY TOWN - 26

Lenell John-Lewis and Scott Neilson lead the way for the Mariners so far with five goals.

Both have made 12 starts plus on sub appearance.

Grimsby, who were playing in the second tier of English football as recently as 2003, have scored 26 goals in 16 games so far.

But amazingly 13 of these goals - exactly half - came in the space of three days back in August.

First they won 6-1 at Gateshead before hammering visiting Alfreton 7-0 two days later.

Striker John-Lewis and winger Neilson both scored twice at Gateshead, and both netted once against Alfreton.

Ex-Crawley and Wycombe marksman Jon-Paul Pittman was also on target against Alfreton.

That was one of his four goals from seven appearances before he picked up an injury in mid-September and has not played since.

This is Grimsby's fifth season in non league football, during which they have twice managed a fourth



PROLIFIC: Ex-Eastleigh and Totton striker Brett Williams, left, has again been on target for Aldershot (see page 42).

placed finish only to lose in the play-offs.

LINCOLN - 25

Ben Tomlinson is again proving to be the Red Imps' main marksman, though he is by no means the club's only threat.

Top scorer with 18 goals last season, the 24-year-old Tomlinson has

already struck six times in 16 starts.

Ex-Morecambe and Stevenage striker Jordan Burrow has scored five times in 13 starts after arriving at Sincil Bank last summer.

Left-back Sean Newton has grabbed four goals, the same amount as one-time Nottingham Forest trainee Hamza Bencherif.

Lincoln are currently in their fourth season as a non league club

after suffering their second relegation to the Conference, their first arriving in 1987.

KIDDERMINSTER - 22

Defender Cheyenne Dunkley is Harriers' top scorer in the league with four goals.

Striker Michael Gash, leading marksman with 14 goals last term,

ALL TODAY'S RESULTS/LATEST TABLES: SEE PAGE 48

Non-league Football

LEAGUE'S TOP GUNS



Who has the best league?

● From facing page

GERMANY: The Bundesliga is once again leading the way when it comes to attendances. Statistics so far this season show an average of almost 43,000 at top-level games in Germany as opposed to 36,000 in the Premier League.

ENGLAND: With a handful of honourable exceptions, most of the world's biggest stars head for the Premier League. Top-flight clubs in England totalled £835million of spending in the summer transfer window, as opposed to £250million by the Bundesliga.

GERMANY: Watching football in the Bundesliga will not break the bank. Tickets for top division games average around £20 in stark contrast to the Premier League, where even the cheapest seat can often set you back as much as £50.



ANOTHER WORLD CUP: Germany's Mario Goetze celebrates scoring the goal that won Germany the World Cup in Brazil.

ENGLAND: The Premier League's TV revenue dwarfs the Bundesliga's. Sky and BT Sport are paying over £3billion for rights from 2013 to 2016, with another £2.3bn in overseas rights. For the equivalent period, the Bundesliga sold domestic rights for just over £500million per season, and £60m per season for foreign rights.

GERMANY: The Bundesliga boasts better strength in depth at the top end. In the last 10 completed seasons, 11 different German clubs have claimed top four finishes, compared with just seven in Premier League in the equivalent period.

WELL DONE: James Constable, middle, is congratulated after scoring for Eastleigh against Welling.



EASTLEIGH - 25

THE Spitfires have so far not relied mainly on one or even two players for a regular stream of goals.

Indeed, their top scorers – James Constable and midfield playmaker Jai Reason – have only scored four each.

Constable scored his in 12 starts before missing the last few games through injury.

He is more than proven at Conference Premier level, as his two seasons with Oxford United in the fifth tier showed.

In 2008/09 he struck 24 goals, and belted 26 in 42 appearances the following season as the U's reclaimed their Football League status by winning the play-off final at Wembley.

Constable was also Oxford's leading scorer in their last four Football League seasons, starting with 15 in 2010/11.

Reason is also no stranger to the Conference Premier, having scored 11 times in 44 appearances for Braintree in 2011/12 prior to dropping back to the Conference South to sign for Eastleigh.

Jack Midson, who played alongside Constable when Oxford won promotion

from the Conference in 2010, and Ben Strevens have each chipped in with three so far.

Midson was snapped up by Spitfires boss Richard Hill in the summer after three years in League 2 with AFC Wimbledon.

In the first two seasons, Midson was the Dons' top scorer – hitting 20 in his debut 2011/12 campaign and 15 in 2012/13.

He was released at the end of last season after scoring seven times in 40 appearances – but he did finish off with a bit of a flourish, netting four goals in his last eight outings after only hitting three in his first 32 appearances of 2013/14.

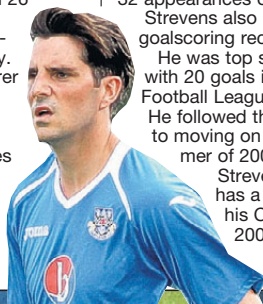
Strevens also possesses a good Football League goalscoring record.

He was top scorer for Dagenham & Redbridge with 20 goals in the club's first ever season as a Football League club, 2007/08.

He followed that up with 15 goals in 2008/09 prior to moving on to League 1 Brentford in the summer of 2009.

Strevens, like Constable and Midson, also has a Conference Premier promotion on his CV – in his case with Barnet in 2004/05.

GOALS: Ben Strevens.



is joined on three strikes by Nathan Blissett.

The nephew of former England striker Luther, Blissett struck twice with headers as Harriers came from 0-3 down to draw 3-3 at leaders Barnet last weekend.

WELLING - 22

Two young strikers have bagged 15 goals between them.

One-time Sutton forward Harry Beautyman, 22, has notched 10 goals in 16 starts, including scoring in seven of his last nine outings.

Tyrone Marsh, 20, was brought in last summer after being released by Oxford United.

Marsh, who only made seven sub

appearances in League 2 for Oxford, has netted five times so far.

The only other person who has scored more than once for the club is midfielder Jake Gallagher (2 goals).

FOREST GREEN - 21

Rovers have two highly experi-

enced former Football League strikers in their side.

Lee Hughes, now 38, scored 203 league goals during a prolific career which was halted for three years by a prison sentence.

Having made his name at West Bromwich Albion, Coventry splashed out £5m to sign Hughes in the summer of 2001.

He returned to The Hawthorns for £2.5m the following year.

The best season of Hughes' professional career came in 2009/10 when he scored 33 goals to help Notts County win promotion from League 2.

Hughes joined Forest Green last January after being released by Port Vale.

He scored eight times for the club in 2013/14 and already has six from eight starts and five sub outings this term.

Rovers can also call on 32-year-old Jon Parkin, a veteran of over 400 Football League appearances and 112 goals.

Parkin once signed for Stoke for £275,000 in 2007 and also cost Cardiff City £100,000 in 2011.

He scored 10 goals in helping Fleetwood win promotion from League 2 last season before making Forest Green the 13th club of his career.

Parkin has grabbed six goals in 14 starts plus two off the bench this term, including a late leveller in a 2-2 draw at Eastleigh.

James Norwood, Rovers' top scorer last term with 19 goals, has four to his name in 2014/15.

Luke Rodgers has mainly been used by Rovers as a sub this term and has yet to score.

But the 32-year-old is a danger in front of goal, witness his 100 plus Football League goals for Shrewsbury, Port Vale and Notts County.

WREXHAM - 21

The Red Dragons' two top scorers so far are both summer signings from manager Kevin Wilkin's previous club Nuneaton.

Louis Moults double strike in the recent 2-2 draw at Halifax took his tally to eight from his first 15 games.

The one-time Stoke City trainee was Nuneaton's top scorer last season with 17 strikes.

Wilkin had signed Moults for Nuneaton after a season in League 2 with Northampton.

During 2013/14 Moults had played alongside Wes York, whose goals had helped Nuneaton win promotion from the Conference North in 2012/13.

York has so far struck three times for Wrexham, including one in the 3-0 home win over Eastleigh.

Andy Bishop also scored against the Spitfires, his only goal of the season so far.

But Bishop has a good pedigree, having netted over 100 Football League goals for York and Bury between 2004-2013.

Continued on page 42.

MORE EASTLEIGH NEWS ONLINE: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Alek's unlucky break
ALEK Przespolewski made an ill-fated debut for Hampton & Richmond Borough last weekend.

The Havant & Waterlooville loan midfielder, below, sustained a broken little toe and a hairline fracture of the metatarsal in Borough's 2-1 home win over VCD Athletic in the Ryman Premier Division. It was wretched luck for the former Newport IOW player, who was part of Winchester City's Sydenhams Premier title-winning team of 2011/12.



An H&W statement said: "The club would like to wish Alek a speedy recovery in what must be a frustrating time for the skilful midfield player."

Przespolewski's injury apart, it was a satisfying weekend for Havant who had two Bradley Bubb goals to thank for their 2-0 FA Cup success at Wingate & Finchley.

The reward for Lee Bradbury's men is a fourth qualifying round tie at Ryman Premier Canvey Island next week (October 25).

Six-shooting Denham
BRETT Denham found the net an amazing six times as Tadley Calvea romped to a 9-1 victory away at East Cowes Vics in Sydenhams One last Saturday. Denham's double hat-trick stole the show for Tadley, while Shaun Dallimore bagged a brace and James Tennant also got his name on the scoresheet.

The landslide result left Tadley third in the table ahead of a trip to struggling Andover New Street today.

It's not all good news for the Barlow's Park outfit, however. Tadley have been charged with failing to control spectators by the Hampshire FA after events that unfolded during the HFA Senior Cup victory over Basingstoke Town.

Slabber's Hants return
FORMER Eastleigh targetman Jamie Slabber is back playing football in Hampshire.

The towering striker has joined Spencer Day's Farnborough on a month's loan from Conference South rivals Bromley.

Slabber made his Boro' debut at home to Bishop's Cleeve last Saturday but they lost 1-0 to a Mikel Suarez penalty.

HILL TARGETING FAN-TA

RICHARD Hill says the FA Cup is more significant for Eastleigh this season than last.

While 2013/14 was all about securing promotion from the Conference South, the Spitfires are acutely aware that now is the time to seize their moment in the spotlight as they establish themselves in non-League's elite.

Crowds at the Silverlake Stadium are now averaging just short 1,600 in the Vanarama Conference – a massive increase on about 600 last year.

"All of a sudden we've found 1,000 new supporters and it's all the bits and pieces outside football that make the FA Cup more significant to us this year than last," said manager Hill.

"We want to capitalise on our new-found fan base as well as giving our old supporters something they've not had before.

"A cup run is good from the point of view of bringing in finance which will help ease the burden of running a Conference Premier club."

Last season Eastleigh were dumped out of the competition 3-2 at home by Oxford City at the third qualifying round stage. It was a rare blot on an otherwise brilliant season for Hill's men.

Their elevation to non-League's top flight takes them straight through to the fourth qualifying round this time and Monday's draw dealt them a potentially tricky task away to league rivals Kidderminster Harriers next Saturday (October 25).

It wasn't the dream tie they might have hoped for, but Hill shrugged: "It is what it is. Everyone wants a home draw, preferably against lower league opposition, but 50 cent of us are going to be disappointed."

"No one can choose who comes out of the hat or whether it's home or away and we'll be going to Kidderminster as underdogs."

"The pressure, if there is any, is all on them. Kidderminster are an established Conference Premier club and an ex-Football League club as well."

Kidderminster are managed by

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER



Gary Whild, who was right-hand man to former boss Steve Burr. He took a lesser role when Andy Thorn arrived in January, but agreed a 12-month rolling contract as team boss when Thorn was sacked after just two months at the Aggborough helm.

Whild was happy with the draw, saying: "Most clubs will have been listening to the draw and wanting a home tie and it's pleasing for us that we've got that."

"In terms of the league the opposition are in, there are advantages to being drawn against another Conference side."

"We could have been put against a team who are doing well lower down the pyramid – obviously you won't know too much about them and it's difficult to find out a lot too."

"Also, as much as you try and guard against it, you're always at risk of being on the end of an upset against a lower side – that's what the FA Cup is all about at this stage."

"With Eastleigh being a newly-promoted club, we haven't come across them before, so it'll be interesting."

"They've started the season well, they've got heavy investment from the chairman and they're an ambitious club."

FA Cup fourth qualifying round, local ties (Saturday, October 25): Aldershot Town v Torquay Utd, Basingstoke Town v Harrow Borough, Canvey Island v Havant & Waterlooville, Dorchester Town v Bristol Rovers, Kidderminster Harriers v Eastleigh, Weymouth v Braintree Town, Willand Rovers v Gosport Borough.

● Eastleigh FA Cup history – see page 31.

We want to capitalise on our new-found fan base as well as giving our old supporters something they've not had before



Doubts over Mills' City future as player takes

LAST Saturday's valiant 3-2 defeat at Concord Rangers marked the end of Winchester City's interest in the 2014/15 FA Cup.

But what fans didn't know at the time was that it may also have been classy defender Leigh Mills's farewell appearance for the cathedral city club.

Less than 24 hours after returning from Canvey Island, it was announced that the highly-rated 26-year-old had decided to take a break from football for personal and family reasons.

When Mills, pictured right, first arrived at his home town club Winchester during Paul McCarthy's reign in 2010, there were a few City fans pinching themselves that a player of his pedigree had turned up on their doorstep.

Aged just 22 at the time, this was a player who had commanded an initial fee of £150,000 when Tottenham had signed him as an exciting 16-year-old from Swindon Town.

He had played 12 professional games on loan at

Gillingham from Spurs and featured in the same England youth set-up as Theo Walcott, Michael Mancienne and Fabrice Muamba.

The life of a professional footballer just wasn't for him, however, and after taking a break from the game Mills found contentment at Winchester City where he was a commanding presence in Guy Butters' Sydenhams Premier title-winning side of 2011/12.

He stepped up briefly with Eastleigh in the Conference South the following season, reuniting with Richard Hill who knew him as a youth player.

But, months later, he was back on the Wessex scene with Blackfield

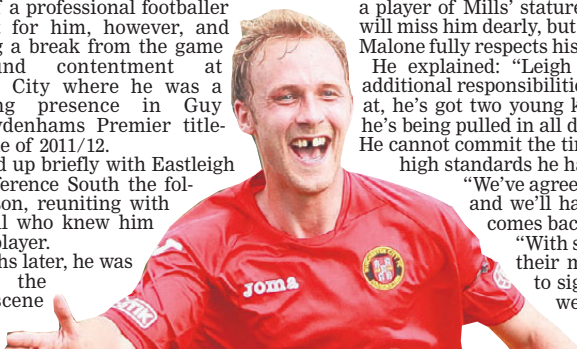
& Langley before returning to his first love Winchester.

City consider themselves privileged to have had a player of Mills' stature lining up for them and will miss him dearly, but director of football Dave Malone fully respects his decision to take a break.

He explained: "Leigh has recently taken on additional responsibilities at the school he works at, he's got two young kids and I think he feels he's being pulled in all directions at the moment. He cannot commit the time needed to sustain the high standards he has set himself."

"We've agreed he takes some time out and we'll have to wait and see if he comes back or not."

"With some players you'd doubt their motives and expect them to sign for someone else next week, but with Leigh I think it's genuine and we're not going to try



NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023

Non-league Football STIC CUP RUN



FANS GO WILD: Eastleigh supporters react to Stuart Fleetwood's, pictured, leveller against Oxford City in the FA Cup third qualifying round last season.

es time out from football

ce him to continue.
s a gentleman and a credit to himself.
allers come and go, but Leigh's one player
take all day long. I don't imagine there's a
n this league that wouldn't take Leigh Mills.
quality player and a quality bloke.
lly he's too good for the Wessex League.
bit like (former City hero) Andy Forbes in
whatever he does, he does it with a bit of

summer signing Mark James and Adam
also injured, Mills' departure has left City
in defence and notices of approach have
n for Follands Sports' Matt Burt (see story
ge 27) and former City player Matt Scott,
Andover Town.

were also due to speak to another of their
yers, wide man Charlie Smeeton of
ort IoW, this week as they look to bolster
ers for the busy schedule ahead.

g into today's home game against league

leaders Whitchurch United, Winchester were
ninth in the Sydenhams Premier but with games
in hand over the bulk of the sides above them.

"If we could win those games we'd be up in the
top three or four," said Malone. "I've got to make
sure we've got enough players to do that."

One player they might struggle to keep hold of,
however, is experienced campaigner Liam Green.
The former Eastleigh, Sholing and Wimborne
midfielder has made just two Wessex starts for
Winchester this season.

Nonetheless, Green is still highly valued at the
Denplan City Ground where he was a member of
the 2004 FA Vase-winning squad.

"Liam's never got himself 100 per cent fit and
he's carrying a bit weight, but I hope he stays
with us," said Malone.

"Liam's in his early 30s now and, knowing him,
his priority will be wanting to play football, which
I can understand. Maybe he'll go, but are
Blackfield the club he wants play for?"



GOSPORT MOVE: FA Vase winning captain Byron Mason, who won the trophy with Sholing.

Mason reunited with Carter and Wort

BYRON Mason's move to Gosport Borough was finally made official on Tuesday night – just in time to see his former Sholing teammate Lee Wort net his first goal for the Privett Park club.

Although the Boatmen confirmed that midfielder Mason was on his way ten days ago, he didn't actually put pen to paper for Alex Pike's Conference South side until the 3-0 FA Cup third qualifying round victory over Maidenhead United.

After drawing 1-1 in Berkshire over the weekend, Borough had all to play for in Tuesday's replay with a distinctly winnable trip to Western Premier Division side Willand Rovers – the lowest ranked team left in the competition – on offer next Saturday (October 25).

Borough didn't disappoint with two-goal Dan Wooden paving the way to victory before substitute Wort took centre stage with a stunning third.

Having already gone close to opening his account with a great run and shot which crashed into the side netting, the St Mary's-based hotshot finally got his stoppage-time reward with a cool chip over the 'keeper from 20 yards.

Gosport lost one rugged midfielder in the summer when ex-Eastleigh man Jamie Brown exited the club following comments made on Twitter.

Now boss Alex Pike believes Mason can be a similarly imposing figure in the Borough engine room.

"When Jamie Brown left the squad, we lost that 'dog' in midfield who has that physical presence," he said.

"Byron Mason will give us something different that we will need over the coming months."

Mason shouldn't take long to settle with Wort and fellow ex-Sholing teammate Mike Carter for company at Privett Park.

Losing another of May's FA Vase-winning heroes leaves a big hole for the Boatmen to fill as their new-look side acclimatise to the Southern One South & West.

But Sholing co-boss Dave Fear believes it would be wrong to

stand in the way of players progressing.

"You can't stop the likes of Worty, Carts and Byron moving on," he said.

"If players want to go to lesser sides, we'll try and talk them round."

"But Bryon lifted the Vase as our captain at Wembley, and he wanted the chance to step up and he's taken it."

"If it doesn't work out at Gosport, he knows where we are, but he needed to take that step."

"Byron was a big character in our dressing room and all round the place, but he's ambitious and we didn't want to hold him back."

Gosport have also signed another striker/winger in the shape of ex-Portsmouth youngster Ashley Harris.

The 20-year-old made 32 appearances for Pompey between 2012 and 2014 and was released from Fratton Park in May.

He has already had a flavour of Conference South football on loan at Havant & Waterlooville and Chelmsford City.

Born in Waterlooville, Harris is yet another local lad joining the Gosport squad.

Sholing chairman Dave Diaper has praised Borough for managing to build a competitive Conference South side with local talent and those sentiments were echoed by Winchester City's director of football Dave Malone this week.

"I take my hat off the Pikey and Gosport Borough," he said. "If you look at their squad, with two or three exceptions they've basically got Wessex/Southern League players."

"Looking at Justin Bennett, Forbesy (Andy Forbes), Rory Williams, Brett Poate, Danny Smith and so on, Pikey's put together a pretty local side. I'm amazed he's managed to do it."

Pike, meanwhile, admits he has been taken aback by just how good a player ex-Sholing man Carter is.

"He's a proper little midfield tiger," he said.

"When I signed him I knew he was a good player, but I didn't realise he was that good!"

Non-league News

Chairman backs Scott
ANDY Scott, manager of Eastleigh's Vanarama Conference rivals Eastleigh, has been backed by chairman Shahid Azeem following their mixed start to the season.

Last Saturday's 2-2 home draw with Bristol Rovers left the Shots five points above the relegation zone, having won just two of their last ten games.

"Andy has a proven track record and has been around the block," said Azeem. "The answer is not always to get another manager in. We believe in the team and I think the spirit is there. We just need confidence again."

Former Brentford and Rotherham boss Scott signed a new contract for the north Hampshire club in October 2013.

"It has been challenging," Azeem added. "Let's be blunt about it – we have not been scoring a lot of goals."

Clubs urged to Step up

THE FA has asked all Step 5 leagues – including the Sydenhams Wessex – to make clubs aware of how to apply for promotion for 2015/16.

An application form can be downloaded from the FA website, but only clubs with Grade E ground grading – or any realistic hope of achieving it by March 31 next year – are encouraged to apply.

The completed application form, accompanying documentation and an application fee cheque for £100 plus VAT must be received by no later than November 30.

For information visit the FA website <http://www.thefa.com/news/my-football/club-league/2014/oct/step-5-4-applications>.

Gosport soccer school
GOSPORT Borough are taking bookings for their half-term soccer school on Thursday, October 30.

Running from 9am-3pm at Privett Park, it will cater for boys and girls of all abilities aged between seven and 12.

A fun-filled day is planned with penalty shoot-outs, crossbar challenges and football rounds, as well as skills training and matches.

The day will cost £15 per child but there is a discounted rate of £25 available for two children from the same family.

For more information contact Sam Pearce on 07901 969795.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Ger the best: Kearn hails Benfield stop

STEWART Kearn has made some smart saves in his time.

So the Hamworthy United boss was well qualified to praise Gerard Benfield's stunning stop during the Hammers' 1-1 draw at Lymington Town on Tuesday.

The 16-year-old marked his Sydenhams Premier debut by pulling off a miraculous save to keep out Declan McCarthy's bullet header from point-blank range.

Kearn, pictured below, had turned to Benfield after Dan Ackerman had declared himself unavailable due to work commitments and dual-registered Shane Murphy had been called up by Dorchester.

Benfield's heroics were matched by Lymington goalkeeper Stuart Williamson who proved more than a match for Dom Allen's ferocious second-half volley.

Kearn, who has kept goal for the likes of Lymington & New Milton, Bashley and Wimborne, said: "I don't think you will see too many better saves in the Wessex Premier this season. They were both great reaction saves of the highest quality."

"To get something on the head-er was an immense save by Gerard and it rounded off a good night for him."

"He commanded his area well and came through with flying colours."

Honours finished even in an entertaining contest which saw Russell Cook bag the Hammers' 75th-minute equaliser after McCarthy had opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time.

For Kearn, it was his first away point since taking the Hammers reins last month following the departure of Graham Kemp to Dorchester.

"I don't think either team could grumble too much about the result," he said.

"Had it not been for the saves, it could have been 2-2. A draw was a fair reflection."

City stock on up

WINCHESTER City have won the Sydenhams Premier club-of-the-month award for September.

The Division One honours go to Cowes Sports.



JACK ODAM

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

JOHN Pyatt believes Jack Odam is doing the right thing to test himself with Dorchester Town.

The speedy former AFC Totton youth striker had been playing on a dual-signing for Pyatt's Lymington Town from Gosport Borough.

He remains a Borough player, but the 19-year-old has now stepped up two levels from Sydenhams Premier outfit Lymington to try his luck with Dorchester in the Evo-Stik Southern Premier.

With two more of his dual-signed players, Tony Lee and Harrison Weeks, having been recalled by parent club Bashley, Pyatt could have done without losing Odam too.

Odam has scored ten goals in 17 Wessex games for Town this season and the England Colleges international will undoubtedly be missed.

But, putting his managerial hat to one side, Pyatt believes a spell with Dorchester will benefit a player who, under his joint managerial charge, captained Bashley in the Southern Premier last season.

He said: "Jack's gone to try his hand with Dorchester and I think it's right he gives it a go."

"He captained Bashley last season and scooped all the player-of-the-year awards. He proved that he can more than handle himself at that level."

"He's certainly got the scope to improve himself at Dorchester as long as he fits in with that group of players."

"The only thing is that Jack's at university in Chichester and I know that he and his parents won't let football distract him from his studies."

Dorchester boss Graham Kemp saw exactly what Odam was capable of when his old charges Hamworthy United played Lymington earlier in the season.

The Hammers won the game 4-2, but Odam was on the scoresheet.

"Gosport sent him to Lymington for some games and he played against Hamworthy and ran us ragged," Kemp recalled.

"He is an off-the-shoulder striker who loves to run the channels."

Hamworthy - now under the charge of Stewart Kearn - drew the return league match 1-1 at Lymington on Tuesday.

Declan McCarthy put Town ahead before Russell Cook responded for the Hammers.

It was another of Lymington's Gosport 'loanees' Sam Roberts who had scored twice for Lymington in their 3-1 Sydenhams Premier defeat

of Blackfield & Langley last Saturday.

Trailing to a Jake Rowley goal, Lymo hit back through a Luke Ansell header five minutes later to go in 1-1 at half-time at Southampton Road.

Roberts did the rest, scoring twice in the second half - much to the frustration of Blackfield, who were reduced to nine men with Michael Durley shown a straight red at 2-1 and Nick Tayler given a second yellow at 3-1.

"Sam was a young lad at Salisbury last year and played for me on loan at Bashley," Pyatt explained.

"He's not known for his goals, but he was playing out wide or even at

full-back before, whereas now he's an attacking central midfielder."

"He and Brad Strickland are a good combination in the middle of the park and give us plenty of energy."

With forward James Davis due back from holiday this week and the versatile Darren Ritchie available again after a chest muscle problem, Pyatt is confident Lymington can cope without Odam.

He has lodged seven days' notice of approach for Blackfield & Langley's forward/winger Manny Soetan, another who played for him at Bashley last year, and said: "If needs be, we can always utilise Darren (Ritchie) up front. He likes to get forward anyway from midfield and he'll

probably surprise a few people."

"Darren was out for four weeks after pulling a muscle in the chest wall against Romsey. It was pressing on his heart and causing him pain and he had a night in hospital. But he went on for the last half-hour against Blackfield and felt fine."

● Jack Odam scored on his Dorchester Town debut on Tuesday in the Red Insure Cup derby with Weymouth.

But, despite twice fighting back from a goal down - through Odam and Dan Smith (penalty) - it was Jason Matthews' Terras who progressed 3-2 courtesy of Callum Laird, Jamie Beasley and Ed Palmer's 30-yard howitzer.

Lymo boss backs teenager to make grade with Dorchester

ODAM HAS MADE THE RIGHT MOVE - PYATT



SKIPPER Scott Arnold revealed there had been "a few choice words" uttered in Wimborne Town's half-time dressing room last Saturday. Utilising a three-man defence, the Magpies came under intense pressure from Clevedon Town at Cuthbury, but they somehow went in 1-0 up at the break through a George Webb strike.

The interval inquest had the desired effect, however, as further goals from Mark Gamble (2) and subs Matt Kemble and Max Brimson sealed an emphatic 5-1 win in the Evo-Stik Southern One South & West.

"If we'd come in 2-0 or 3-0 down we couldn't have complained because we were poor," Arnold, pictured, confessed.

"There were a few choice words at half-time and it was a great reaction in the second half."

"In the last few games people have been hiding a little bit, but you could see that people wanted the ball and were brave in possession."

"It was important to get that win because we were off the back of three consecutive losses, which was disappointing for us."

The much-needed three-point haul lifted the Magpies to eighth.

"At this stage of the season if you win a couple of games you shoot up the table," said Arnold. "It was great to bounce back and now we want to put another run together."

The Magpies took a break from league action on Tuesday to face higher-league neighbours Poole Town in the Red Insure Cup first round.

They were outclassed 3-0 at Tatnam with Carl Preston, Mark Jermyn and Dan Munday doing the damage for the Dolphins.

TURN BACK TO PAGE 5 FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION

Non-league Football



Robins break win duck under Hopkins

AFTER more than two months in the doldrums, Downton finally had a reason to be cheerful last weekend.

Their morale-boosting 2-1 Wiltshire Senior Cup triumph over Westbury United was their first victory under Colin Hopkins' tenure and helped lift the gloom of no wins in six Sydenhams One outings.

A Ben Rankin spot kick and a goal from newcomer Ross Bentall ended a nine-week wait for success.

Hailing his battling troops, Hopkins smiled: "We were fantastic against a physical Westbury side and thoroughly deserved the win."

"New signings Matt Holmes and Ross Bentall looked as if they had been with us all season."

"I knew Matt and Ross would make a difference, but for them both to have such an impact on their debuts was brilliant."

"Matt was instrumental in our forward play and Ross never stopped working all game, scored a superb goal and will definitely score more with our attacking style of football."

Downton have another home tie in the second round against Highworth



THE WAIT IS OVER: Manager Colin Hopkins celebrates with his Downton team after the first win of his tenure.

Town on Saturday, November 8.

Amesbury Town (Danny Finnegan 2, Eddie Perrett pen, Craig Wheeler) also progressed 4-1 over Chippenham Youth Adults, while Laverstock & Ford (Louis Elder, Rob Gallagher, James Clifton,

Tom Munday) swept aside Pewsey Vale 4-0.

Meanwhile an under-strength Bemerton Heath Harlequins were eliminated at the first hurdle, losing 2-1 at Wroughton, despite Scott Joyce netting his 11th goal of the season. Bemmy boss Ian Chalk

took "full responsibility" for rotating his squad, saying: "We have to be realistic sometimes."

"We've had 20 games this season already, so these competitions become a chance for us to play the kids and see what they've got."

"Shaun Prentice, Ben Spratt and Reece Rusher have all done okay, but physically in these types of games they are often found to be a little short."

"I take full responsibility for the defeat but make no apology for changing the side."



ANDY DARNTON

DARNTON: BASH ROLE BECAME UNTENABLE

ANDY Darnton says he resigned as co-manager of Bashley because his position had become "untenable."

With Nick Ferguson having left the New Forest club's committee due to increased travel commitments, Bash are looking to bring new finance on board, **writes WENDY GEE.**

And Darnton, who had worked alongside chairman Angela Speechley-Price's husband Graham since the start of the summer, decided enough was enough after being informed by his co-boss that the club were "actively looking for a manager who can bring in finance and players".

Effectively that would have put Darnton out of a job if and when the new manager was appointed.

"This put me in an untenable position, so I resigned with immediate

effect," Darnton explained.

"To say I'm disappointed is an understatement, especially the way it was done by text from Graham. It was Bashley who approached me to come over in the first place!"

Prior to the arrival of ex-AFC Totton trio Ferguson and the Speechley-Prices it looked as if Bashley might go to the wall during the summer.

The club survived but, with limited finances at their disposal, they are struggling one of the foot of the Evo-Stik Southern One South & West.

"Operating at this level with zero budget is near impossible to attract quality players, but we managed to establish a squad through a lot of time and effort and I know for sure with a little bit of money, even for expenses, we would have been able to attract more players and become a mid-table side," said Darnton.

"This I have proven at the likes of Andover and Winchester who were in the Southern League at the time on limited budgets, so I have lots of experience at this level and know what is needed."

"Working as a joint manager can also be difficult and opinions differ on players," he added.

"I knew from the start that Graham would have the final say on things, but football is all about opinions and this is part of management."

"I was also disappointed about us being unable to keep Matt Oldring, arguably our best player, at the club after Dorchester had put an approach in."

"The players have been great and I'm very touched by all the kind text messages I have received. I wish them all the best for the future along with Bashley FC."

Graham Speechley-Price said he

had been informed of the club's intentions to look for a new manager and passed that information on to Darnton.

"Clubs at this level need investment and it wouldn't take a lot to really take Bashley forward," he said.

"Andy decided he didn't want to work under those circumstances, which I could understand."

"I'll soldier on. It may be that the club don't find anyone, but if someone becomes available I'll happily step aside."

It is the second time that Southampton-based Darnton, a long-serving Bash defender in the late-90s/early-2000s, has parted company with the club under less than satisfactory circumstances.

Back in 2005 he successfully sued them for wrongful dismissal and loss of earnings after being dismissed as player-coach.

Non-league News

Burt's in demand

FOLLAND Sports defender Matt Burt is a man in demand.

Having recently turned down overtures from Southern League outfit Bashley, the towering centre-back is now the subject of seven days' notice of approach from Winchester City who are seeking a replacement for Leigh Mills.

Burt has been a tower of strength for Follands since joining them from Sydenhams Premier rivals Fareham Town last season.

He was virtually ever-present in the side that finished a best-ever third in the Wessex top flight last term and his rearguard partnership with Callum Brockway has been one of the plus points of the current campaign.

On Tuesday the duo faced one of their biggest tests so far, keeping quiet a resurgent AFC Portchester side spearheaded by Planemakers' old boy Jamie Musselwhite.

But they rose solidly to the challenge as Ashley Jarvis's second-half goal settled a tight contest 1-0 in Follands' favour.

Confirming Winchester's interest in Burt, Planemakers' assistant boss Dave Lewis smiled:

"Winchester have got to wait seven days to speak to him, but we've told Burt there's no point going to a smaller club than us!"

While admitting Tuesday's game was not one for the purists, Lewis was delighted to emerge with the points.

"It was exactly what we'd expected, a typically hard-fought game with neither side giving the other any time on the ball," he said.

"They had a player (Craig Hardy) sent off for two yellow cards after we'd scored and I think they felt a bit aggrieved not to have got a point, but our spirit and determination edged it in the end."

"Our 'keeper Ryan Gosney didn't get his kit dirty. He had one save to make the whole game."

"There wasn't much good football played by either side, but Portchester came here off the back of four wins and they've got all their big players back now."

"James Roden got a cut eye where he was caught by an elbow, but it wasn't dirty, it was just a highly contested game against a really good team."

Follands' winner arrived midway through the second half, ironically after a spell of Portchester pressure.

Skipper Jamie Barron's shot was well parried by 'keeper Luke Douglas and the razor-sharp Jarvis - 'Robin' to Musselwhite's 'Batman' during the dynamic duo's time together - pounced on the follow-up.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

New league sponsor
THE Southern Football League has finally found itself a new title sponsor – eight weeks into the new season.

After Calor Gas decided against extending their one-year deal during the summer, it was feared the league would miss out on vital extra income.

But Bostik have saved the day with the league now to be known as the Evo-Stik League Southern – just as it was between 2011 and 2013.

The new deal – worth £100,800 over 21 months with an option to negotiate a further 12 months for 2016/17 – comes as a major boost to the league.

Chairman Ken Turner said: “We are now in our 121st season, encompassing some 68 clubs that rely on the financial support that sponsorship generates.

“Teaming up again with a household name like Evo-Stik is certainly welcome news for everyone involved.”

Evo-Stik also back the North Premier League and Dale Poulton, Bostik UK's commercial director, said: “We've worked hard to get this deal in place.

“We have a proven relationship with this tier of football and it helps us achieve great things for our brand.”

Southern League clubs – Sholing, AFC Totton, Bashley, Poole Town and Wimborne Town among them – will each receive £600 for advertising Evo-Stik on their website home page and on advertising boards around the ground. Patches will also be provided to put on team shirt sleeves.

Next season clubs will be required to put two full-page adverts in their match-day programme.

Cherries return on hold
FORMER Salisbury City striker Matt Tubbs admits he has no immediate plans to return to AFC Bournemouth.

The 30-year-old has enjoyed a strong start to his season-long loan at AFC Wimbledon, notching nine goals in 14 appearances for the League Two outfit.

Cherries do have an option to recall Tubbs, but the Salisbury-born hitman acknowledges that any such move is unlikely with four first-team strikers – Callum Wilson, Yann Kermorgant, Tokelo Rantie and Brett Pitman – at boss Eddie Howe's disposal.

Tubbs, pictured right, said: “I didn't feature at all there last season and I'm obviously not in the manager's plans this season.

“We'll have to wait and see what happens.

“All I can keep doing is trying to do well for this club and push us towards the top of the table.

“I'm enjoying my football at the minute and anyone who's enjoying their football is comfortable where they are.

“You take it as it comes. For me, it's just a case of trying to keep fit and score as many goals as I can.

“It's not for me to decide (the long-term future). I'd like to have a few options. I've not got that yet.

“Come Christmas time, hopefully there will be some decisions to be made.”



TAYLOR'S PASS MASTERS PUT EARLY TROUBLES BEHIND THEM

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

THEY began the season on the end of an 8-2 hiding by Amesbury Town, but how times have changed for Team Solent.

A run of six straight victories – five of them in the league – has propelled them to the top of Sydenhams One.

With former leaders Fleet Spurs held 2-2 by New Milton Town last Saturday, the Southampton Solent University students leapfrogged them at the summit with a 3-1 derby win over Hythe & Dibden at Test Park.

Thanks to an innovative partnership with the Premier League, Solent are one of several universities nationwide providing higher education opportunities for young players released by professional academies.

Jesse Waller-Lassen, who scored twice against Hythe, is a former Tottenham Hotspur youngster, while midfielder Sam Byles was previously an Arsenal youth and England under-16 player who is now studying BA (Hons) Sport Studies at Solent.

James Taylor, Team Solent's interim manager, has also been blessed with ex-Coventry City central midfield prospect Jamal Frederick, while left-back James Campbell was formerly part of the youth set-up at Stoke City.

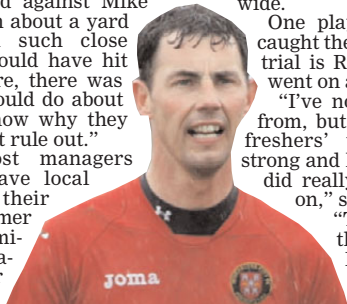
“They're young lads out of professional academies who are all very keen and technically very good and we're passing the ball really well,” said Taylor, pictured below.

“The main problem we'll have with such a young side is playing teams like Hythe who are big and physical, but we passed them off the park.

“It was 0-0 at half-time, but we were unlucky in the first half and we came straight out in the second half and must have been 3-0 up in ten minutes with two from Jesse and one from winger Jim Orvis.

“They were given a penalty (scored by Terry Cox) for handball towards the end when the ball's been smashed against Mike Wheeler from about a yard away. From such close quarters it could have hit him anywhere, there was nothing he could do about it. I don't know why they can't sort that rule out.”

Unlike most managers who only have local players at their disposal, former England semi-pro international Taylor is blessed



Gosney cup KO leaves Killick fuming

GOSPORT Borough's former AFC Totton wide man Mike Gosney was one of two players injured for Poole Town in Tuesday's 3-0 Red Insure Cup triumph over Wimborne.

Gosney – currently on loan to the Dolphins – and Mark Jermyn both ended up on the treatment table as goals from Carl Preston, Jermyn and Dan Munday saw Poole through.

Left winger Gosney, right of picture, limped off after just eight minutes following a challenge by young

Magpies debutant Franklyn Clarke, who received a yellow card – much to the annoyance of Dolphins boss Tom Killick.

“The injury to Mike Gosney was a big setback for us. It was an unnecessary tackle and their lad should have received a red card,” he fumed.

“I thought there was malice in it and it shouldn't matter whether he's eight or 80, he might have badly injured one of my players. Hopefully he'll learn from it.”

Wimborne boss Steve Cuss felt the referee was right in only cautioning Clarke.

“It's a yellow card. The referee dealt with it well,” he said.

“I thought we competed very well. We have a lot of young lads who are trying to find their way at a club that gives them an opportunity.

“They will learn from it and become better players. “That's what we do at our club, give opportunities to young players.”

with young talent from far and wide.

One player who has already caught the eye from the freshers' trial is Rukky Diejomaoh, who went on as a sub against Hythe.

“I've no idea where Rukky's from, but he came through the freshers' trial and he's very strong and lightning quick and he did really well when he came on,” said Taylor.

“That's the interesting thing about this job. Every year the side changes drastically with students coming

in and out. It takes a while to get it sorted but it's going very nicely at the moment.

“We had the freshers' trial a week ago and players have been slowly coming back from last year.”

Team Solent are now taking a break from league action to concentrate on the cups. They were due to host Bush Hill in the Southampton Senior Cup this afternoon (Saturday) before welcoming divisional rivals US Portsmouth to Test Park in the Sydenhams League Cup next Saturday (October 25).

● Fleet Spurs surrendered top spot in Sydenhams One after being

held 2-2 at home by New Milton Town last Saturday.

Spurs took the lead with a Tom Chillery penalty after Ben Boukhobza had been fouled in the box.

Ross Drew equalised, getting the final touch from Robbie Woolner's corner and, with an hour gone, Kappa Jack smashed New Milton ahead.

Fleet salvaged a point in unlikely fashion with two overhead kicks.

Boukhobza's first sat up nicely for Chillery who acrobatically beat 'keeper Tom Jackson with the second.

FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE NEWS GO TO dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Robbo nets Town winner on FA Cup debut

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

EX-SAINTS midfielder **Andy Robinson** fired **Graham Kemp's** **Dorchester Town** through to the FA Cup fourth qualifying round last Saturday – less than 48 hours after joining the county town club.

The 21-year-old introduced himself in the best possible manner with an exquisite 62nd-minute strike that saw off Hendon 1-0 at the Avenue Stadium.

Robinson joined the Saints Academy aged eight and went on to captain the under-18 side before moving into the development squad.

He was promoted to the first team at the beginning of 2012/13 and made his debut in a 2-0 League Cup win over Sheffield Wednesday, going on as an 81st-minute substitute for Jack Cork.

He signed for Bolton Wanderers in May following a loan spell late last season, but failed to settle in the area and returned down south to his native Bournemouth.

Kemp jumped at the opportunity to snap him up on non-contract terms, but admitted that it was only when he looked on social media that he realised what a decent signing he had made.

Admitting he did Robinson "a little bit of an injustice", former Christchurch and Winchester boss Kemp said: "You do your homework when people put themselves forward, they all say they've done this and done that. It wasn't really until I saw the reaction on Twitter that I realised what a good signing he could turn out to be."

"People from all realms of football have been contacting me telling me what a signing it is."

"Andy has been training with Conference clubs and lower Football League clubs, but they have all sorted themselves out and he doesn't really want to sit in the reserves or anything like that. He just wants to play and we can offer him that."

"He is about as good as you could get at this stage of the season for someone who is not cup-tied, so it suits both parties. We will see how things go over the next few weeks."

Robinson stamped his class



EX-SAINT QUICK TO IMPRESS KEMP

CUP WINNER: Andy Robinson. INSET: Dorchester boss Graham Kemp.

"It wasn't until I saw the reaction on Twitter that I realised what a good signing he could turn out to be"

on proceedings just after the hour mark last Saturday, curling a delightful shot beyond Hendon 'keeper Ben McNamara.

"It's not often you make a signing and he gets the winner," smiled Kemp.

"You can see Andy's got

quality, he's got class, but it was maybe a bit of an eye-opener for him."

"You could see he's played League football. His little touches were really good."

Dorchester will welcome back FA Cup hero Jake Gosling next Saturday after being drawn at home to non-

League giants Bristol Rovers in the fourth qualifying round.

Gosling wrote his name into Dorchester folklore two years ago when he scored the winner for the Magpies in their memorable Cup slaying of Plymouth Argyle.

The 20-year-old Gibraltar international winger was on loan from Exeter City at the time. He joined Bristol Rovers in June this year following his release by the Grecians.

Kemp, who recently left Wessex League outfit Hamworthy United to take up the Dorchester post, smiled: "It's a great tie for the club."

"It will be a tough game, but in cup football there is always a chance. There will be no pressure on us, so we can enjoy the occasion."

"I feel that when a team is able to go out and express themselves they are at their most dangerous."

"Two months ago I was knocked out of the FA Cup with Hamworthy, so this is a bit of a reprieve for me."



IMPACT: Chris Flood, left, has netted nine goals in 13 games since joining Basingstoke Town.

Goals Flood is no surprise

CHRIS Flood's bright start for Basingstoke Town comes as no surprise to the team he left behind.

Dave Malone, director of football at Flood's old club Winchester City, says the 24-year-old forward is a prime example of a player who finds it easier to shine higher up the non-League pyramid than lower down the ranks.

With 21 goals scored in 37 Wessex appearances for Winchester last season, Flood was a solid performer in the Sydenhams Premier Division while never quite setting the world alight.

But since returning to his Conference South comfort zone with Basingstoke, the former Salisbury, Crawley, Dorchester, Eastleigh and Maidenhead front-runner is right back on top of his game with nine goals netted in his opening 13 matches.

Flood's latest appearance on the scoresheet came at Ebbsfleet United last Saturday where two goals in the last 20 minutes brought Stoke back from behind to secure a 2-1 win in the FA Cup third qualifying round.

Ebbsfleet's Charlie Sheringham had broken the deadlock on 53 minutes before Flood wiped it out with a thumping strike from 25 yards.

Eleven minutes later, Liam Enver-Marum headed the north Hampshire outfit to victory, booking them a home tie against Ryman Premier Harrow Borough next Saturday (October 25).

Reflecting on Flood's impact at Basingstoke, Malone said: "Sometimes players playing at our level struggle more than they do higher up and Floody's a good example of that."

"It was me who got him to Basingstoke and I said to (manager) Jason Bristow at the time that he would be a better player for them than he was at our level."

"In the Wessex League it's all about chasing the ball and there's not much structure to it."

"Floody almost tried to do too much with us and sometimes kept hold of the ball longer than he should have done."

"In a daff way, he was too good for this level and I'm pleased for him that he's doing so well for Basingstoke. He's a really good lad."

Although Flood and Enver-Marum took the scoring accolades at Ebbsfleet, goalkeeper Stuart Moore was the star of the Basingstoke show.

The Isle of Wight-born Reading loanee – son of former Roadsea Southampton No1 Phil and younger brother of Cardiff City 'keeper Simon – pulled off a string of top-drawer saves to keep the visitors in the tie.

Chewing over next Saturday's showdown with Harrow, Basingstoke boss Bristow said: "We have to be thankful that we have drawn a team from a lower division at home, but it's not a game that we will look at thinking it's going to be easy."

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS - SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

Beck eyeing cup run for Castle

WINCHESTER Castle co-manager Stewart Beck is relieved that his squad has recovered from an early season injury crisis and started to climb the Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League Senior division.

Castle are managed by former AFC Stoneham and Stockbridge coaching team Terry Chapman and Beck, who initially worked alongside James Banks, before he was forced to take a break from football for personal reasons.

The Chilcomb outfit got their league campaign off to a flying start with a 5-1 win over Paulsgrove.

But they experienced a slump in form thanks to an injury crisis.

That dip saw them go seven games without victory – getting beaten 8-0 by table toppers Baffins Milton Rovers in process.

It meant they spent the opening weeks of the season loitering in the lower part of the table.

They ended that run at the beginning of September and have since turned their fortunes around with three consecutive wins in the county top flight.

“We were struggling with injuries early on,” admits Beck, younger brother of Alresford Town co-boss Martin. “But our results have picked up a little now.”

“We came here in the summer and haven’t been set any expectations by the club.

“So it’s good to have

picked up some good results and have a regular squad.

“This season is all about establishing ourselves and then really having a go next term.”

Castle are now perched in seventh place, and although Beck is pleased with the improving league position, he and Chapman are eyeing a Hampshire Senior Cup run.

“We would like to get up to the top four,” Beck said. “Our ambitions are to go on a good cup run.”

“We need to settle down and when we are capable, in the long term, we want to go up to the Wessex ranks.

“But at the moment we want to concentrate on going far in the cup and doing the best we can in the league.”

Chapman, Beck and Banks arrived at Castle in the summer, after leaving Stockbridge and have brought in a number of players that have formed the spine of their new-look side.

The trio were at Stockbridge, but left after a number of problems at the club.

A few additions to the squad have seen midfielder Danny Silience arrive, joining from high-flying AFC Stoneham in exchange for Dave Egerton.

Stuart Findlay has been rejuvenated under the new management, scoring 12 goals in as many games thus far.



LEADING THE WAY: PEHPL Division One pacesetters Broughton.

EDWARDS: I'VE GOT MY FOOTBALL MOJO BACK

BROUGHTON manager Peter Edwards has got his “mojo” back after a four season break from the helm at the Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League Division One club.

Edwards was in charge at the village club until 2009/10, but took a break to concentrate on family.

He’s now back, after replacing departed boss Robbie Elliott who led the club to a mid-table finish last term, and has already taken his new-look outfit to the top of the Hampshire second tier – although title favourites Infinity are a point behind with a game in hand.

With no more than two or three players left from last season, Edwards is keeping his ambitions realistic.

“I didn’t expect to be top,” he said. “It’s of course nice to be up there, but realistically I think Infinity are very strong and will be up there.”

“We set out this season to get a top half finish, but I’d like to think we’d be capable of

PUMA ENGINEERING HPL DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Broughton	7	5	1	1	21	8	16
Infinity	6	5	0	1	22	11	15
Lyndhurst	7	5	0	2	18	11	15
Netley Central Sports	7	4	1	2	13	9	13
Hayling United	6	3	1	2	15	10	10
Cadnam United	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
Four Marks	7	3	0	4	18	15	9
Andover Lions	6	1	1	4	11	15	4
AFC Petersfield	7	1	1	5	10	16	4
Upham	5	1	0	4	5	15	3
Michelmersh & Timsbury	5	0	0	5	3	28	0

● Table does not include this weekend’s games.

getting among the top sides now.

“I’ve brought back a number of the players I had at the club the first time I was in charge and they’ve gelled really well. The team spirit they’re showing is excellent.”

Broughton haven’t lost since the opening day of the season, where they went down 2-1 to Infinity.

“I’ve got my mojo back,” the boss admitted. “I’ve rediscovered that love for football and I’m really enjoying it at the moment.”

“We had a very good pre-season and they’ve all bonded together well.

“I love football and we really do have a lovely set-up at Broughton.”

Not only has the playing and management staff changed, former chairman Chris Barlow has returned and Edwards’s partner, Kirstie Gallagher, has taken on secretarial duties.

Edwards hailed all his squad.

“I wouldn’t pick out any player for special mention because they’ve all been superb.”

New player Shane Vidler has netted ten goals in six matches, while at the other end they’ve been resilient, having third best defence in the division.

Edwards reckons Division One is highly competitive.

“They’re a few good teams in this league,” he said. “Even teams down the bottom can beat higher teams.”

“We played Petersfield and they were very strong and they’re second from bottom.

“Infinity are obviously favourite, but Cadnam are a good side from what I’ve heard so far.

“But it’s a league where anyone can beat anyone.”

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Non-league Football



EASTLEIGH will be bidding to reach the first round proper of the FA Cup for only the second time in their history next weekend.

Richard Hill takes his Spitfires to fellow Conference Premier club Kidderminster Harriers next Saturday in the fourth qualifying round of the world's most famous club knockout tournament.

Eastleigh have only ever reached that stage three times, but are facing a Kidderminster side who have twice reached the fourth round proper or better twice in the last 20 years.

The Spitfires' only appearance in the first round proper came in 2009/10 after they won 5-3 at Conference South rivals Dover.

Frustratingly, given all the Football League clubs Eastleigh could have faced – including at the time Saints, Bournemouth and Brighton – they were handed a dismal tie at Barrow.

Eastleigh traipsed all the way to the north west to unluckily lose 2-1 to a side then in the top flight of non league football.

FIRST TIME

The first time Eastleigh had reached the fourth qualifying round was in 2007/08 when they were drawn at home to Forest Green Rovers.

After a 3-3 draw at The Silverlake Stadium, Eastleigh took the lead in the replay in the third minute through Andy Forbes.

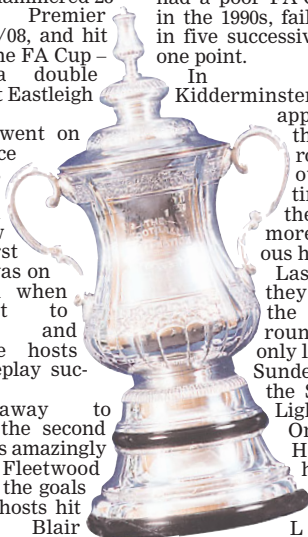
But the evening went downhill from then on, with the visitors ending up losing 4-1 and having Paul Sales and Andy Harris sent off.

There was a familiar face up front for Forest Green, current Eastleigh star Stuart Fleetwood.

Fleetwood hammered 28 Conference Premier goals in 2007/08, and hit six more in the FA Cup – including a double strike against Eastleigh in the replay.

Fleetwood went on to score twice as Rovers held Rotherham to a 2-2 draw in the first round, and was on target again when they went to Yorkshire and stunned the hosts with a 3-0 replay success.

Drawn away to Swindon in the second round, Rovers amazingly led 2-1 – Fleetwood again among the goals – before the hosts hit back with Blair



Eastleigh chasing their cup dream...

SINGING IN THE RAIN: Eastleigh fans enjoyed their trip to Barrow on the club's one and only FA Cup first round tie so far.



Sturrock pouncing for an 88th minute winner.

Eastleigh's last appearance at the fourth qualifying round stage was in 2010/11 when they lost 3-2 at Woking.

Prior to all that, Eastleigh had a poor FA Cup record in the 1990s, failing to win in five successive years at one point.

In contrast, Kidderminster have appeared in the first round stage over 20 times in their far more illustrious history.

Last season they reached the fourth round proper, only losing 1-0 to Sunderland at the Stadium of Light.

On the way Harriers had beaten t w o Football League

clubs. They stunned Newport County 4-2 at Aggborough in round two before winning 3-2 at League 1 Peterborough in a third round replay.

Joe Lolley struck the winner at London Road in his last appearance for Kidderminster before signing for Championship club Huddersfield Town for around £250,000.

WINNER

Greek midfielder Charalampos Mavrias brought an end to Kidderminster's fine run with a fifth minute winner at Sunderland.

That was the second longest Cup run in Harriers' recent history.

Back in 1993/94 – when Eastleigh were losing to Andover in the second qualifying round – the Worcestershire club progressed to the fifth round proper.

En route they scored a famous third round 2-1 win at Midlands neighbours Birmingham City, who

were relegated from the second tier of English football that season.

Kidderminster then dumped Preston out 1-0 before losing by the same score to West Ham at Aggborough in the last 16.

They were the last non league club to reach the fifth round until 2011, when Crawley reached that stage before losing 1-0 at Old Trafford.

Kidderminster finished the 1993/94 season by winning the Conference title, but were refused admission to the Football League due to their ground not being up to the required standard.

Under ex-Liverpool midfielder Jan Molby, Kidderminster again won the Conference title in 1999/2000. The club spent five years in the Football League before being relegated.

The nearest they have come to a return was in the memorable 2012/13 season.

After failing to win any of their first 10 Conference games, Kidderminster then

won 22 of their next 26 matches to storm to the top of the league.

During the middle of that run they sold striker Jamille Matt to Fleetwood for a club record £300,000.

Eventually finishing runners-up, Harriers then lost both legs of their play-off semi-final to a Wrexham side who had finished fifth!

Kidderminster have also been to Wembley four times in the FA Trophy final.

In 1987 they drew 0-0 with Burton before winning a replay at West Bromwich Albion. Four years later they lost 2-1 to Wycombe Wanderers before a then record crowd of 34,842.

And in 1995, they were beaten by the same score by Woking.

The last time Kidderminster reached the national stadium was in 2007. They faced Stevenage in what was the first club game ever played at the new Wembley, the Trophy final attracting a competition record crowd of 53,262 as a result.

Kidderminster lost 3-2.

EASTLEIGH'S FA CUP RECORD

1981-82	1Q	Poole Town H	.....W 2-1
	2Q	Melksham Town H	.....W 3-1
	3Q	Dorchester Town H	.....L 2-4
1982-83	1Q	Newport IoW H	.....D 2-2
	1Qr	Newport IoW A	.....W 3-1
	2Q	Worthing A	.....L 1-3
1983-84	1Q	Dorchester Town A	.....D 0-0
	1Qr	Dorchester Town H	.....L 0-2
1984-85	1Q	AFC Totton H	.....L 0-2
1986-87	1Q	Lewes H	.....D 1-1
	1Qr	Lewes A	.....W 2-1
	2Q	Crawley Town H	.....L 0-1
1987-88	PRE	Swanage H	.....D 1-1
	PREr	Swanage A	.....L 1-3
1988-89	PRE	Hungerford A	.....D 0-0
	PREr	Hungerford H	.....L 0-1
1989-90	1Q	Chertsey A	.....L 0-4
1990-91	PRE	Newbury A	.....L 1-2
1991-92	PRE	Thame A	.....D 1-1
	PREr	Thame H	.....L 0-2
1992-93	PRE	Newport IoW H	.....L 1-2
1993-94	PRE	Fareham A	.....D 1-1
	PREr	Fareham H	.....W 4-1
	1Q	Brockenhurst A	.....W 4-1
	2Q	Andover A	.....L 0-3
1994-95	PRE	Fareham A	.....L 1-3
1995-96	PRE	Gosport B A	.....L 0-2
1996-97	PRE	Hungerford H	.....L 0-3
1997-98	PRE	Chippenham A	.....D 0-0
	PREr	Chippenham H	.....L 0-1
1998-99	PRE	Portfield A	.....D 1-1
	PREr	Portfield H	.....L 0-3
1999-00	PRE	Street A	.....W 1-0
	1Q	Tuffley Rovers A	.....L 1-2
2000-01	PRE	Tonbridge Angels A	.....D 0-0
	PREr	Tonbridge Angels H	.....L 0-1
2001-02	PRE	Tunbridge Wells H	.....D 2-2
	PREr	Tunbridge Wells A	.....W 3-2
	1Q	Chessington & Hook A	.....W 5-2
	2Q	Sutton Utd A	.....L 1-5
2002-03	EP	Horsham YMCA A	.....W 3-1
	PRE	Erith & Belvedere H	.....W 5-0
	1Q	Croydon H	.....W 2-0
	2Q	Lewes A	.....D 0-0
	2Qr	Lewes H	.....L 2-4
2003-04	PRE	VCD Athletic A	.....L 1-2
2004-05	1Q	Gosport B A	.....W 2-1
	2Q	Barnstaple H	.....W 5-0
	3Q	Tiverton A	.....D 3-3
	3Qr	Tiverton H	.....L 0-1
2005-06	2Q	Havant & W H	.....D 0-0
	2Qr	Havant & W A	.....L 1-4
2006-07	2Q	Gloucester City H	.....W 3-2
	3Q	Salisbury City H	.....L 0-1
2007-08	2Q	Hamworthy Utd A	.....W 3-1
	3Q	Clevedon Tn H	.....W 5-0
	4Q	Forest Green H	.....D 3-3
	4Qr	Forest Green A	.....L 1-4
2008-09	2Q	Farnborough H	.....W 1-0
	3Q	Burgess Hill A	.....L 1-2
2009-10	2Q	Witney A	.....W 6-1
	3Q	Basingstoke H	.....W 2-0
	4Q	Dover A	.....W 5-3
	1R	Barrow A	.....L 1-2
2010-11	2Q	Bognor Regis H	.....W 2-0
	3Q	Clevedon Town A	.....W 5-0
	4Q	Woking A	.....L 2-3
2011-12	2Q	Cinderford H	.....W 3-1
	3Q	Oxford City H	.....L 1-3
2012-13	2Q	Farnborough A	.....W 2-1
	3Q	Gloucester AL 0-1
2013-14	2Q	Mangotsfield HW 4-0
	3Q	Oxford City HL 2-3

Youth Football

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Youth Football

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J Franklin, Southampton, Hants
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S Greenwood, Southampton, Hants

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An incident in a Winchester v Sutton Utd match

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Youth Football

BLAZING A WINNING TRAIL...

NEWCOMERS Andover are blazing a five-match winning trail in their debut season in the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League.

They have so far plundered 25 goals from five wins – 19 of them coming in the opening fortnight when they thrashed Havant 12-0 and put another seven past Chichester without reply, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

Ron Bertie's side – an Academy team which forms part of the Andover College BTEC/A-Level sport programme – has also yet to concede a goal!

Cameron Roach, whose father Joe Roach is AFC Bournemouth's Academy boss, leads the scoring charts with eight goals.

Kieran Stephens and Przemek Rozanski, whose early second half goal decided this week's 1-0 win over Poole Grammar, have five each.

Roach Senior was on the touchline at the Chalton Sports Centre in midweek, where PGS gave Andover their toughest work out so far.

Andover share top spot with Brockenhurst, who extended their goal scoring exploits with a 5-0 drubbing of Totton.

They have now scored 40 goals in five games.

Local pair Barton Peveril and Itchen also boast unblemished autumn starts.

Ben Gurman notched a hat-trick and Matt Bainbridge scored twice in Barton's 6-2 win over Farnborough.

Barton were three-up inside 20 minutes, but Alex Merrifield pulled a goal back for Farnborough before the break.

Barton scored early in the second half before Merrifield got his

second. Boro' pushed players forward to get back into it and Barton scored two late goals to finish 6-2 winners.

"Ben Gurman was exceptional," praised Farnborough coach Alan Reed.

Richard Taunton have begun to hit their straps – a 4-1 win over Chichester coming on the back of a 7-0 trouncing of Havant.

Chichester went 1-0 up in the early stages at Hill Lane, but RTC captain

Mo Aslami bullied his way past three defenders with a bustling run and neat finish to make it 1-1.

Luke Bergg, who hit a hat-trick in the Havant win, made it 2-1 following up a spill from the goalkeeper from a Reyhan Khan free kick.

Meelad Aslami (Mo's brother) then hit a 30 yard thunderbolt into the top corner after a short free kick to give Tauntons' a 3-1 half-time lead.

There was a lot of huff and puff



ANOTHER WIN: Joel Le Marquand (right) in action for Richard Taunton Sixth Form College against Chichester College.



ANDOVER COLLEGE: Back row (from left): Kieran Stephens, Macaulay Stephens, Ben Emans, Owen Trapnell, Brendan Norris, Luke Greenway, Matt Smith, Cameron Roach and Ron Bertie (head coach). Front: Wade Crisp, Andre Coelho, Przemek Rozanski, Matt Harper-Ronald, Zack Hine, Jamie Woolfenden, Connor Callanan and Kieran Edwards.

in the second half from both sides before Sam Long scored RTC's fourth.

Arguably the game of the week in the Colleges League was Sparsholt's 3-3 draw with Bournemouth & Poole.

Sparsholt had their goalkeeper sent off barely two minutes into the game – Ollie Yeadon was brought down and promptly scored from the resulting penalty – and then found themselves 2-0 down to a smart Oscar Bircham finish midway through the first half.

Sparsholt's ten men fought back to 2-2 and then snatched the lead – only to lose it again two minutes from the end when a 40-yard free kick from Matthew Morris took a wicked deflection and wrong-footed the stand-in agricultural college goalkeeper.

Queen Mary's put in an excellent all round performance and

thoroughly deserved their 3-1 victory against a previously unbeaten South Downs team.

"QMC kept their shape throughout and defended superbly throughout the game," beamed coach Dave Bourne.

The opening goal came when a neat move down the right resulted in Adam Alliston playing a nice pass inside to Ash Pearce, who finished superbly from the edge of the box.

Ten minutes later QMC repeated the dose – Alliston once again finding Pearce, who doubled the score.

With seven first half minutes remaining, a pass from Lewis Mitchell found Tom Farrelly, whose first time shot rebounded off the bar to Ed Quick, who added a third.

The second half was again end-to-end match – QMC again creating some good chances, but the final touch at times letting them down.

South Downs, who had won their four previous games, scored a late consolation goal.

Bottom of the table and leaking goals like the proverbial sieve, Havant took another lashing – this time from Alton, whose 9-2 win was their first of the season.

Mike Turner scored five times for Alton, whose other goals came from Sam Dew, Ed Duffy, Tom Pate and Matt Connor.

St Vincent had their recent revival checked when Portsmouth beat them 3-1 – Liam Mears scoring their consolation goal before a two-match winning run was ended.

Wednesday's fixtures: Alton v Chichester, Barton Peveril v Queen Mary's, Itchen v Portsmouth, Peter Symonds v Richard Tauntons, Poole Grammar v Havant, South Downs v Brockenhurst, Sparsholt v Bournemouth, St Vincent v Farnborough, Totton v Andover.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL STANDINGS

FA Women's Premier League SW Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Forest Green	7	5	2	0	17
Swindon Town	7	4	2	1	14
Southampton Saints	7	4	1	2	13
Exeter City	6	3	2	1	11
Chichester City	8	3	1	4	10
Shanklin	5	2	3	0	9
Cheltenham Town	7	2	1	4	7
Larkhall Athletic	6	2	0	4	6
St Nicholas	6	1	0	5	3
Gosport Borough	5	0	0	5	0

Hampshire County Women's League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Southampton Saints & Girls	6	5	0	1	15
Corfe Mullen Youth	5	3	0	2	9
Portsmouth Fc Ladies Youth	5	3	0	2	9
Mudeford Phoenix Flames Youth	4	3	0	1	9
Winchester City Flyers Youth	2	0	0	2	0
Mudeford Phoenix Flyers Youth	4	0	0	4	0
Btc (Southampton) Youth	2	0	0	2	0

Winchester and District Girls Football League U14

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Portsmouth	4	4	0	0	12
Southampton Saints U13	5	4	0	1	12
St Francis	5	4	0	1	12
Crofton	4	3	0	1	9
Oakley	5	2	1	2	7
Winchester City Flyers	4	2	0	2	6
Warsash Wasps	5	2	0	3	6
Crookham	5	2	0	3	6
Widbrook	5	1	1	3	4
Portsmouth University	3	1	0	2	3
Aldershot	5	1	0	4	3
Tidworth	4	0	0	4	0

Winchester and District Girls Football League U13 – Pool A

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Southampton Saints U12	4	4	0	0	12
Afc Boscombe	4	3	0	1	9
Romsey	4	2	1	1	7
Wyvern	4	2	0	2	6
Winchester City Flyers	3	1	1	1	4
Hedge End	4	1	0	3	3
Alresford	5	0	0	5	0

Winchester and District Girls Football League U11

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Portsmouth	4	4	0	0	12
Saints	3	2	0	1	6
Petersfield	3	2	0	1	6
Winchester City Flyers	4	2	0	2	6
Alresford Blacks	2	1	0	1	3
Clanfield	2	1	0	1	3
Widbrook	3	0	0	3	0
Alresford Whites	3	0	0	3	0

Winchester and District Girls Football League U10 (friendly)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Winchester City Flyers	3	3	0	0	9
Southampton Saints	3	3	0	0	9
Worthies	4	1	1	2	4
Romsey	4	0	1	3	1
Widbrook	2	0	0	2	0

● Girls and ladies reports: See page 38

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GIRLS' AND LADIES' FOOTBALL ROUND-UP



SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS G&L FC UNDER-12s: Enjoyed 6-1 home rule over their Alresford counterparts last weekend.

Saints sub Whitlock torpedoes Leeds

Leeds Ladies FC 2 Southampton Saints Ladies 4
SAINTS came from behind to beat Leeds 4-2 after extra time in a tempestuous League Plate tie in Yorkshire.

Their eventual hero was sub Emma Whitlock, who scored twice in the extra half hour.

Kerri Why was controversially deemed to have handled on 15 minutes, allowing Leeds to convert a penalty.

Soon after, Why latched onto a through ball by Sheriden Palk to level.

Leeds were back in front by half-time, and after an hour were still ahead.

Around that time both sides deemed the ball unfit to play with as it was too hard. A lot of disruption came from this and led to Saints captain Krystal Whyte getting yellow carded through mistaken identity after a Leeds defender deliberately kicked the ball away.

This also resulted in Saints manager Adam Lee being sent out of the ground for dissent.

With five minutes remaining, Becki Bath unleashed a power strike that dipped under the crossbar to level.

Saints took the lead for the first time in extra time through sub Whitlock, who scored again in the second period of extra time.

Southampton Saints U14 10 Shanklin U14 0
Libby O'Dell led the scoring with a hat-trick. Further goals followed from Katie Johns (2), Bex Quinn (2), Chloe Perry (2) and Mollie Renshaw. Chloe Perry was voted player of the match.

Romsey U10 0 Saints U10 2
The last time the two sides met, Saints had won 5-0. Romsey were much improved this time and broke quickly with some great up field kicks by keeper and player of the match Gabriella Arney.

After skipper Amber Birch opened the scoring, Romsey didn't let their heads drop and after some great link up play from Scarlet Darnton, Bethany Downham and Darcy Lay came close to levelling.

Birch followed up another great run by scoring her second of the game.

Saints U12s 6 Alresford U13s 1
A lovely chip from Olivia Norton landed at the feet of Larissa White who opened the scoring in the first minute.

Grace Griffiths's cross was cleared only as far as Arabella Suttie to add a second.

Suttie then set up Griffiths to make it 3-0 after only ten minutes.

Three minutes later Francesca Manson's cross was headed in by Larissa White.

Saints had to wait until the last five minutes before they scored their last two goals, which came from player of the game Lucy Nightingale and Olivia Norton, before Alresford replied.

Southampton Saints U13 7 Crofton U14 0
Kia Anteney and Jennifer King both struck within the opening two minutes to set Saints on their way to victory.

Anteney added her second before half-time, completing her triple in the second half.

Further second half strikes came from Alicia Hill, Manishas Kaurs and Sian Bradbeer.

Beth Turner was voted player of the match.

Email girls and ladies football reports to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk.

Tempo Travel City of Southampton Sunday League

WHAM, BAM, THANK YOU LAMB

Bobby's four-goal blast sets up double-figure victory for Sholing

SHOLING United compounded City of Southampton Sunday League Senior Division basement boys Alderbrook United's early season troubles by smashing them 10-0.

Bobby Lamb's four goals and Alex White's hat-trick put them on course for an emphatic victory.

Dean Ayres, Greg Ainsworth and Craig Paskins also netted to give Sholing their second win of the season, while Alderbrook remain winless after five games.

AFC Bursledon stay top of the Senior Division after beating strugglers Cricketers Arms (Fair Oak) 6-2.

Stefan Williams netted a brace, while Sean Nutbeen, Ben Dashwood, Darren Nutbeen and Chris Alden bagged one each.

Hamble Roll Call remain in the chasing pack behind Bursledon with a 3-2 win over AFC West End.

Kristian Pell's double and Shane Flook had given Roll Call a 3-0 lead at the break, but they cut it fine as West End replied twice in the second half through Joe Dawson and Keith Bailey.

Andy Longland's four goals sent Ice House to within a point of Junior Division 1 leaders AFC Riverside with two games in hand. Ryan Dickson also netted as they thrashed lowly RS Ocean Village 5-1.

Titan scraped past fellow high fliers Sky Blues 3-2.

Sam Bessant, Aiden Reidy and Nick Chalk were all on target after Blues were level at half-time through Dan Scott and Ryan Williams.

Langward Rovers thrashed AFC Portwood 7-3 thanks to Akinolu Babatunde and James King's braces.

Jordan Djillali, Nick Skolsky and Charlie Neocleous added the others. Peter Barlow and Rob North (2) replied.

Glen came from behind to beat Chamberlayne Athletic 4-3.

Athletic had a 2-0 lead at the break, but Jack Voller's hat-trick and Rob King cancelled that out. Justin Penfold, Lee Le Mesurier and Ryan Stephenson scored for Chamberlayne.

Sam McStay netted a hat-trick as Itchen Saints maintained bragging rights over Junior Division 2 by annihilating Boyatt Wood Wanderers 7-0.



BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League cation from the last weekend's match between Pace Cougars (yellow) and Southbrook Sparks.

Daily Echo picture by Ian Hinchliffe Order no: 19729657

● Turn back to pages 32-33 for Eastleigh & District Mini League picture special

Danny Phillips, AJ Cashmore, Jay Maunder and Rich Warner added the other goals.

Hamble Roll Call Reserves stay third after caning LH Galaxy 7-3.

Craig Lyons, Dan Diaper, Russell Medcalf, Sean Tollervey and Amish Morjaria were among the goals.

Luke Harry scored twice in reply and Martin Wolf netted the other.

Athletico Tin Hut continued their miserable start to the season with a 5-2 defeat against Phoenix AFC.

Elliot Weaver's double was cancelled out by Brady Flook, Mitchell Drouet, Paul Bull, Lee Osborne and Rob Elder.

Testlands sit in second after a 6-1 win over S&D. Tom Smith (3), Luke Newman, Nat Newman and Jordan Cook netted with Jordan Prince replying.

TEMPO TRAVEL CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE STANDINGS (tables do not include this weekend's games)

Senior Division							Junior Division Two							Junior Division Four							Junior Division Six										
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
AFC Bursledon	5	4	1	0	21	6	13	Itchen Saints	6	5	1	0	29	6	16	Carnival UK	6	4	1	1	33	16	13	Netley Royals	6	6	0	0	26	10	18
KRL	4	3	0	1	21	7	9	Testlands	6	4	0	2	21	8	12	Marchwood Rangers	6	4	1	1	25	13	13	Hunters Inn	5	5	0	0	27	2	15
Hamble Roll Call	3	3	0	0	15	3	9	Hamble Roll Call Res	5	3	0	2	15	10	9	King George	4	3	0	1	16	11	9	Mottisfont	5	5	0	0	29	5	15
Yacht Tavern	4	2	0	2	10	9	6	Phoenix AFC	6	3	0	3	13	14	9	Holbury United	6	3	0	3	22	21	9	Fawley RBL	6	4	1	1	34	16	13
Sholing United	4	2	0	2	15	16	6	S & D Youth	5	3	0	2	11	15	9	Shelfside	6	3	0	3	23	26	9	JSC	5	2	0	3	11	13	6
AFC West End	3	1	1	1	6	5	4	Boyatt Wood Wndrs	4	2	0	2	7	11	6	Durley	5	2	2	1	15	11	8	AFC Phoenix	5	1	1	3	9	13	4
Bush Hill & NH	2	1	0	1	8	6	3	Lokomotive Eastleigh	4	1	1	2	6	10	4	Eastpoint	5	2	1	2	18	17	7	AFC Spitfire	6	1	0	5	10	24	3
Cricketers Arms	6	1	0	5	15	20	3	LH Galaxy	6	0	2	4	8	20	2	AFC Southbrook	4	2	0	2	16	13	6	Unity	5	1	0	4	8	23	3
Alderbrook United	5	0	0	5	2	41	0	Athletico Tin Hut	4	0	0	4	5	21	0	Royale Marine	5	0	1	4	10	19	1	Sporting Compass	5	0	1	4	5	26	1
																Otter Sunday	5	0	0	5	7	38	0	Bannister Park	6	0	1	5	6	33	1
Junior Division One							Junior Division Three							Junior Division Five							Junior Division Seven										
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
AFC Riverside	6	4	1	1	13	9	13	Trant	6	6	0	0	33	5	18	Sholing Monks	6	5	0	1	28	11	15	AFC Waterside	5	4	1	0	46	4	13
Ice House	4	4	0	0	18	5	12	Hedge End Athletic	5	5	0	0	35	8	15	Dorchester Arms	5	4	0	1	21	8	12	AFC Bishopstoke Res	5	4	0	1	24	7	12
Titans	5	3	1	1	16	8	10	Test Valley Spartans	6	3	0	3	18	21	9	Bitterne Ducks	7	4	0	3	28	28	12	Dorchester Manor	4	3	0	1	18	9	9
Glen	6	3	0	3	18	18	9	AFC Bishopstoke	6	3	0	3	13	17	9	Curbridge	5	3	1	1	19	5	10	Portsmouth United Res	5	2	1	2	14	10	7
Sky Blues	6	3	0	3	16	23	9	Bishops	5	2	0	3	15	22	6	Brook Park Sports	4	3	0	1	24	5	9	Lyndhurst Junior FC	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
Landguard Rovers	6	2	1	3	26	23	7	Young Boys 93/4	2	1	0	1	6	5	3	Portsmouth United	6	2	1	3	12	11	7	Netley RBL	4	2	0	2	13	14	6
Chartwell Green	5	1	2	2	12	15	5	Ego	2	1	0	1	6	8	3	Itchen Abdon	4	2	0	2	6	11	6	Woodside AFC	5	2	0	3	14	25	6
Chamberlayne Athletic	6	1	1	4	12	12	4	AFC Velmere	5	1	0	4	12	16	3	Burridge AFC	3	1	0	2	5	6	3	Chamberlayne Ath Res	5	1	2	2	7	18	5
AFC Portwood	3	1	0	2	10	15	3	Chartwell Green Res	3	1	0	2	5	15	3	St Minions	5	1	0	4	10	36	3	AFC Carnival	4	0	1	3	2	30	1
RS Ocean Village	5	1	0	4	9	22	3	Fleming Sports	6	0	0	6	8	34	0	Soton Sea Hawks	6	0	0	6	4	35	0	Testwood Tornadoes	7	0	1	6	10	40	1

Tempo Travel City of Southampton Sunday League

Magic Johnson sinks the Ducks

AIDEN Johnson netted five goals as Brook Park Sports smashed Bitterne Ducks 11-1 in in Junior Division 5 of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Dean Johnson (2), Stuart Morgan (2), Jack Jewell and Billy Robinson netted the others as Ducks suffered a heavy

defeat to a side below them in the division.

Sholing Monks remain top after a routine win over winless Southampton Seahawks.

The goals were scored by Ben Rowe, James Newman (2) and Jason Long (penalty).

Hunters Inn take second place in Junior Division 6

after a 4-2 win over AFC Spitfire with Robert Pearce (2), Henry Rule and Dan Lace scoring.

JSC kept Sporting Compass near the bottom of the table with a 5-1 win.

Ben Jacobs bagged a brace while Nick White, Louis Cross and Andy Nichols were

also on target. James Willis responded.

Bannister Park collected their first point of the season in a 2-2 draw with high fliers Fawley RBL.

Jack Ayling and Murray Purves were on target, Matt Swartz-Mabey and James Willis replying.

SHELFSDIE'S GREY-T VICTORY



NATHAN Grey scored an incredible NINE goals as Shelfside battered Otter Sunday 11-1 in Junior Division 4 of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Wayne Atkins's brace helped ensure Shelf remain in the division's chasing pack. Dave Bartlett replied.

Royale Marine continue their wait for a win after losing 5-3 to AFC Southbrook.

Paul Lacey, Jamie Cliff and Gift Ngubane's goals saw Marine go close, but Pete Burgess, Mark Christopher, Michael Clark, Ashley Windrige and Dion Bone secured the victory.

Carnival UK took top spot in the league despite letting a 2-0 lead slip to draw 4-4 with Durlay.

Jamie Barron was twice on target and Mike England and Sam Homewood netted one each. Joe Taylor (2), Ash Dallimore and Matt Darling levelled.

Former Winchester City and Eastleigh striker Lerone Plummer netted twice as Young Boy 93/4 got their first points of the season with a 6-2 win over AFC Velmore in Junior Division 3.

Tyrone Gordon, Conor Thorne (2) and John Macualey netted the others. Velmore replied through Jamie Johnson and Alex Waldron.

Trant have now won six in six after battering bottom side Fleming Sports 6-0.

Ben Bowers, Matthew Petley, Tom Stubbs, Aaron Dunne (2) and Liam Gallagher were on target.

Hedge End Athletic continue their red-hot form after winning all five of their opening matches. Their latest success kept them three points behind Trant with a game in hand after beating AFC Bishopstoke 6-2.

Jack Igglesstone bagged four with Mark Parnell and Nick Turner also on target. James Bright replied.

Test Valley Spartans remain third after a 4-2 victory over Bishops thanks to goals from Scott Dyer (2), Craig Renwick and Tom Reed.

Junior 4 outfit Holbury United took time out of their league campaign to beat Portswode United 5-4 in the Southampton Divisional FA Junior B Cup round two.

Dan Wells, Brett Withey, Billy Drever, Billy Lawrence and Chris May scored for Holbury with Joe Powell, Ryan Chaffey, Josh Phillips and Bradley McGivern replying.

SHOOTING STAR: Richard Taunton College's Joel Le Marquand in action during the 4-1 Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League win over Chichester. Order no: 19749297

● Colleges round-up: See page 35

Khan, Panjganj hat-tricks set up huge cup win

UNITY battered Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves 9-1 in the first round of the Charlie Godden Trophy.

Safdar Khan and David Panjganj both struck hat-tricks while Hashim Alyas scored twice and Ray Fakirmohamed netted one.

Marchwood Rangers, second in Junior Division 4, scraped home 3-2 against Woodside of Junior 7.

George Minnard, Jay Petty and Matt Younger were all on target, while Mike Adams twice replied.

Chris Hill hit a hat-trick as Eastpoint beat AFC Carnival 6-3. James Erskine netted a double and Billy Kelly once. Daniel Stockley, Tom McIntyre and David Vella responded.

Portswode United Reserves came from behind to beat Burridge AFC thanks to goals from Cameron Roach, Jerome O'Brien, Luke Motteram and Brandon Shepard (2). Richard Becheley's penalty and Karl Atkin had given Burridge a half-time lead.

Matt Bosanquet's hat-trick, his fourth of the season, saw

Mottisfont to a 3-1 win over Curbridge. James Pitre replied.

Portside went through with a 3-1 win over St Minions, Alex Azadegan and Martin Wooldridge (2) on target. Martin Ellis responded.

Netley RBL came from behind to beat Dorchester Manor 4-3. Lawrence Martin (2), Adam Sear and Nicky Woodgate secured the win after Gary Klepp (2) and Liam Fielder had put Manor in front at the break.

Lee Gallop's hat-trick helped AFC Phoenix to a 5-4 extra time win over Itchen Albion.

Warrick Hyde and Chris Wood also struck, with Jamie Martin (2), Nick England and Nathan Ward replying.

Lyndhurst JFC v Dorchester Arms ended 3-3 after 120 minutes, with the former winning 4-2 on penalties.

Adam Brett (penalty), Ali Pugi and Lee Stickland's goal were matched by Matthew Whitman (2) and Joe Clist for Arms.

Craig Stickland, Lee Stickland, Adam Brett and Tom Huggett netted in the shoot-out. Sergio Silva and Matthew Whitman replied from 12 yards.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, October 20

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

West Brom v Man Utd.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Premier Division: Hitchin v Banbury.

FA YOUTH CUP

Third qualifying round: Eastleigh v Ascot

Utd, Bournemouth Poppies v Oxford City.

Tuesday, October 21

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group E: CSKA Moscow v Man City, Roma

Bayern Munich.

Group F: Apolonia Nicosia v PSG, Barcelona v Ajax.

Group G: Chelsea v Maribor, Schalke 04 v Sporting.

Group H: BATE v Shakhtar Donetsk, FC

Porto v Athletic Bilbao.

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Blackburn v Birmingham,

Blackpool v Derby, Bournemouth v

Reading, Brentford v Sheffield Wed, Cardiff v

Ipswich, Charlton v Bolton, Huddersfield v

Brighton, Norwich v Leeds, Rotherham v

Fulham, Watford v Nottm Forest, Wigan v

Millwall, Wolverhampton v Middlesbrough.

League 1: Barnsley v Notts County, Bristol

City v Bradford, Colchester v Chesterfield,

Crawley Town v Walsall, Crewe v

Peterborough, Doncaster v Leyton Orient,

Gillingham v Preston, Milton Keynes Dons v

Fleetwood T, Oldham v Coventry, Port Vale v

Scunthorpe, Sheff Utd v Yeovil, Swindon v

Rochdale.

League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Plymouth,

Accrington Stanley v Hartlepool, Cambridge

Utd v Cheltenham, Carlisle v Burton Albion,

Exeter v Wycombe, Luton v Dag & Red,

Morecambe v York, Newport County v

Southend, Northampton v Oxford Utd,

Portsmouth v Stevenage, Shrewsbury v

Bury, Tranmere v Mansfield.

VANARAMA CONFERENCE

Premier: Barnet v Braintree

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Premier Division: Chippenham v Redditch,

Dorchester v Burnham, Histon v

Biggleswade, Poole Town v Hungerford,

Slough v Hereford, St Neots v Chesham,

Truro v Paulton Rovers.

Division One South & West: Bridgwater v

Merthyr Town, Fleet Town v Bishops

Cleeve.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

First round: AFC Portchester v Hythe &

Dibden, Bashley v Headley Utd, Fareham

Town v Cowes Sports, Folland Sports v

AFC Totton, Gosport Borough v Petersfield

Town, Horndean v Christchurch, Lymington

Town v Newport IoW, Overton v Andover

New Street, Romsey Town v Moneyfields,

Totton & Eling v Ringwood Town.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Alesford Town v

Whitchurch.

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP

Winchester City Res v Folland Sports Res.

Wednesday, October 22

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A: Atletico Madrid v Malmö FF,

Olympiacos v Juventus.

Group B: Liverpool v Real Madrid,

Ludogorets v Basle.

Group C: Bayer Leverkusen v Zenit St

Petersburg, Monaco v Benfica.

Group D: Anderlecht v Arsenal,

Galatasaray v Borussia Dortmund.

UEFA Europa League

Group L: FC Metalist Kharkiv v Legia

Warsaw.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Premier Division: Cambridge City v

Arlesey.

FA YOUTH CUP

Third qualifying round: Poole Town v

Woking.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

First round: Aldershot Town v Baffins

Milton Rovers, Sholing v Winchester Castle.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Brockenhurst v

Winchester City.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Moneyfields v

Dorchester Town.

Wyvern Shield, league phase: A Ringwood

Town v Bashley.

Thursday, October 23

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A: Borussia M'gladbach v Apollon

Li, Villarreal v FC Zurich.

Group B: Club Brugge v FC Copenhagen,

Torino v HJK Helsinki.

Group C: Partizan Belgrade v Besiktas,

Tottenham Hotspur v Asters Trip.

Group D: Celtic v FC Astra Giurgiu, SV Red

Bull Salzburg v Dinamo Zagreb.

Group E: Estoril v Dinamo Moscow, PSV v

Panathinaikos.

Group F: Dnipro v FK Karabakh, Inter Milan

v St Etienne.

Group G: Rijeka v Feyenoord, Standard

Liege v Sevilla.

Group H: Krasnodar v Wolfsburg, Lille v

Everton.

Group I: Slovan Bratislava v Sparta Prague,

Young Boys v Napoli.

Group J: AaB v Dynamo Kiev, Steaua

Bucuresti v Rio Ave.

Group K: Dinamo Minsk v Guingamp,

PAOK Salonika v Fiorentina.

Group L: Trabzonspor v Lokeren.

FA YOUTH CUP

Third qualifying round: Christchurch v

Havant & Waterlooville.

Friday, October 24

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Fulham v Charlton.

FA CUP

Fourth qualifying round: Macclesfield v

Wrexham.

Saturday, October 25

(FL games 3pm to unless stated otherwise)

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool v Hull, SAINTS v Stoke,

Sunderland v Arsenal, Swansea v Leicester

(5.30pm), West Brom v Crystal Palace,

West Ham v Man City (12.45pm).

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Birmingham v

Bournemouth, Bolton v Brentford, Brighton

v Rotherham, Derby v Wigan, Ipswich v

Huddersfield, Leeds v Wolverhampton,

Middlesbrough v Watford, Millwall v Cardiff

(12.15pm), Nottm Forest v Blackburn,

Reading v Blackpool, Sheff Wed v

Norwich.

League 1: Barnsley v Bristol City, Coventry

v Peterborough, Crewe v Sheff Utd,

Doncaster v Milton Keynes Dons,

Gillingham v Crawley Town, Oldham v

Bradford, Port Vale v Leyton Orient, Preston

v Fleetwood Town, Scunthorpe v Notts

County, Swindon v Colchester, Walsall v

Chesterfield, Yeovil v Rochdale.

League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Tranmere,

Cambridge Utd v Hartlepool, Carlisle v

Oxford Utd, Luton v Northampton, Newport

County v Accrington Stanley, Plymouth v

Cheltenham, Shrewsbury v Portsmouth,

Southend v Bury, Stevenage v Burton

Albion, Wycombe v Dag & Red, York v

Mansfield.

BARCLAYS U18 PREMIER LEAGUE

Southern Division: SAINTS U18 v Norwich

U18 (11am).

FA CUP

Fourth qualifying round: Spennymoor v

AFC Telford Utd, King's Lynn v AFC Fylde,

Grimsby Town v Guiseley, Norton Utd v

Shildon, Warrington v North Ferriby,

Alfreton Town v Lincoln City, Macclesfield v

Wrexham, Chorley v FC Halifax, Barwell v

Altrincham, Leek Town v Blyth Spartans,

Stockport County v Chester, Gateshead v

Gainsborough Trinity, Tamworth v

Southport, Dorchester Town v Bristol

Rovers, East Thurrock v Bath City,

Gloucester City v Forest Green Rovers,

Dartford v Burgess Hill, Maidstone Utd v

Welling, Willand Rovers v Gosport Borough,

Witham v Weston-super-Mare, Eastbourne

Borough v Dover, Weymouth v Braintree,

Worcester v Greenhatch Borough, Canvey

Island v Havant & Waterlooville, St Albans v

Concord Rangers, Basingstoke Town v

Harrow Borough, Aldershot Town v

Torquay, Kidderminster v Eastleigh,

Evesham v Bromley, Chesham Utd v

Barnet, Nuneaton Town v Hemel

Hempstead, Woking v Boreham Wood.

VANARAMA CONFERENCE

South: Maidenhead v Staines Town, Sutton

Utd v Bishop's Stortford.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Premier Division: Arlesey v Chippenham,

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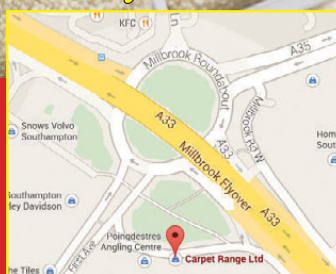
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The meeting will commence at **1.00pm** with a public discussion session on the **Non-Emergency Patient Transport service**. Please come along to ask questions and join the discussion. The Governing Body meeting will follow at **2.00 pm**.

Agenda and papers will be available at the meeting or in advance on our website:

www.farehamandgosportccg.nhs.uk

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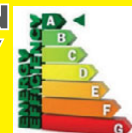
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Conference hot-shots

from page 23

BRAINTREE - 20

Young striker Jordan Cox has so far scored five league goals for the Essex club, after only netting twice in his previous two seasons for the club.

England non league international Kenny Davis, the club's skipper, has also netted five times so far.

That puts him on course to possibly better his best ever Conference Premier goalscoring season of 11 goals in 2012/13.

BRISTOL ROVERS - 20

Rovers have certainly spread the goals around in their first ever Conference Premier campaign.

Three of manager Darryl Clarke's summer signings have all scored three times so far.

Strikers Adam Cunningham and Matty Taylor – signed from Cambridge United and Forest Green Rovers respectively – have wasted no time getting among the goals.

Clarke also signed midfielder Andy Monkhouse from Hartlepool in preparation for Rovers' inaugural taste of non league football.

The 33-year-old certainly knows where the goal is, having scored 44 goals in almost 300 Football League appearances spanning seven years at Hartlepool.

The first of Clarke's summer signings, ex-Saint Jamie White, is still waiting to get off the mark, though.

The 24-year-old netted 11 times in 27 Conference Premier games for Salisbury last season, but has only managed three league starts for the Gas.

AFC TELFORD - 19

Tony Gray and Mike Phenix have both scored four league goals for the struggling Shropshire club.

Neither of them netted in the club's only win in 16 outings, though – the 4-3 home win over Torquay at the end of September.

Adam Farrell grabbed the late winner on that occasion, his only goal of the campaign.

Midfielder Phenix has made a successful return to football after fighting the same bowel condition that plagues Manchester United's Darren Fletcher.

Back in 2013 Phenix had a month out with ulcerative colitis, the inflammatory disease which kept Fletcher sidelined for a year.

MACCLESFIELD - 19

Wade Fairhurst, now in his second spell with the club, is top scorer so far with four goals.

One-time Brighton striker Chris Holroyd has three goals, while the much-travelled Matthew Barnes-Homer netted on his only sub appearance.

Barnes-Homer scored an 87th minute leveller at Dartford last weekend, two minutes after the hosts had taken the lead.

Barnes-Homer, who scored 18 goals for Macclesfield in 2012/13, has returned to Moss Rose on loan from Tamworth.

He made his name at Kidderminster, scoring 34 goals in three years in the Conference Premier between 2007-10.

DOVER - 18

Ricky Miller is the Kent club's top scorer so far with five goals from eight starts plus two as a sub.

Former Gillingham man Stefan Payne is next highest with three strikes, including one in a 2-1 home win over Eastleigh back in August. Payne, signed from Hornchurch in the summer, made one Football League start for the Gills, but came off the bench on 27 occasions.

Ex-Salisbury City striker Jake Reid has scored twice this season, both his goals coming in the 4-1 win at Telford.

ALTRINCHAM - 16

Damien Reeves started the season in style, scoring seven goals in his first nine league appearances.

Included in that haul was a double strike in the Cheshire club's 3-3 home draw against Eastleigh.

He has not scored in his last seven games, though.

No other Altrincham player has scored more than twice.

One of them, Kyle Perry, has a Conference Premier pedigree having netted 17 goals for Tamworth in 2010/11.

Last season he struck 12 goals to help

Altrincham, one of the most famous non league clubs in England thanks to their 1970s and 1980s FA Cup exploits, win promotion through the Blue Square North play-offs.

ALDERSHOT - 17

Southampton-born Brett Williams is already showing he is no one-season Conference Premier wonder.

The 26-year-old former Eastleigh and AFC Totton striker belted 24 goals in his debut season for the Shots last term.

He had signed for the north Hampshire club after being released by Reading, where he had failed to play a competitive game in three years. During that time he had gained Football League experience at Rotherham and Northampton.

Williams already has seven goals from 16 outings in 2014/15, including a penalty in last weekend's 2-2 home draw against Bristol Rovers.

No other Shots player has scored more than twice so far.

DARTFORD - 16

Skipper Elliot Bradbrook is the Kent club's top scorer so far with four goals from mid-field. He is the club's talisman, having netted nine times in 2013/14 and 10 goals the previous season.

Elliot's brother, Tom, is Dartford's second top marksman with three goals.

SOUTHPORT - 16

Record breaker Richard Brodie, pictured below, is expected to be the main supply of goals.

He has already netted five, and none of his team-mates have scored more than two. Brodie made his name at York City, smashing 30 goals in 2009/10 as the club lost the Conference Premier play-off final to an Oxford side containing current Eastleigh pair James Constable and Jack Midson.

That form won him a £250,000 move to Crawley that summer, a record sum for a player between two non league clubs.

Brodie scored 11 times as Crawley romped to the Conference Premier title in 2010/11.

Ex-Salisbury and Cherries striker Matt Tubbs led the way with a stunning 37-goal league haul, while current Eastleigh striker Craig McAllister weighed in with 12 goals.

Brodie, still only 27, left to join Gateshead in the summer of 2013, and completed a permanent move to Southport at the end of last season after initially joining them on loan.

CHESTER - 16

Chester boast a high profile striker in their ranks, ex-Scottish international Chris Iwelumo.

Now 36, Iwelumo scored over 100 career goals in the Football League, and netted against Saints for the likes of Charlton and Colchester.

But he has only struck once in the Conference Premier so far after spending time last season with Scunthorpe and St Johnstone.

Top scorer is striker Craig Hobson with four goals while Sean McConville, a summer signing from Stalybridge, has netted three times so far.

John Rooney, younger brother of Wayne, has two goals from 16 games so far.

ALFRETON - 15

Having lost last season's leading marksman John Akinde to Barnet, the Derbyshire club are relying on 20-year-old rookie Joe Ironside. Signed on a free after being released by Sheffield United, Ironside is the club's top scorer so far with four goals.

Alfreton will also be hoping Karl Hawley can roll back the years a bit.

The man who plundered 26 league and cup goals for Carlisle in 2005/06 has grabbed three goals so far after joining from Torquay last summer.

Two of Hawley's goals ironically came against Torquay in Alfreton's surprise 4-2 win last weekend.

NUNEATON - 12

Only two players have scored more than once for the struggling Midlands side.

Striker Andy Brown, who in 2012/13 netted 19 Conference Premier goals for the club, is joined on two strikes by centre half Gareth Dean.

CRICKET: Simon Walter looks back at the

KP'S DAYS AT

AS THE recriminations continue following the publication of Kevin Pietersen's autobiography, it is hard to believe only ten years have passed since he signed for Hampshire.

It was on October 26, 2004, that Pietersen, then a relative unknown, was unveiled in front of a handful of local press in a small, nondescript room on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl pavilion.

Flanked by Hampshire Cricket secretary Tim Tremlett and chairman Rod Bransgrove, the 24-year-old was soon discussing his England ambitions following his move south.

After an impressive start to his first-class career with Nottinghamshire, who he left following his well-documented fall-out at Trent Bridge, Pietersen gave us a taste of the self-belief that would drive him to greatness.

"It's a big move for me and hopefully I'll be in the Test side soon," he said.

"Robert Key and Ian Bell are ahead of me in the pecking order at the moment so it's a case of biding my time - but getting big runs for Hampshire will do me no harm."

The Rose Bowl square was still settling down after only three seasons of first-class cricket, but that had not put Pietersen off joining forces with Shane Warne.

"People have come down here and scored hundreds and double hundreds so why can't I do that?" he reasoned.

"It's the challenge that excites me. I could have stayed at Trent Bridge and do what I've done for the last four years or go and play at the Oval or Canterbury on flat wickets and get 1500 runs."

Hampshire had abandoned plans to sign Ed Smith from Kent as soon as Pietersen's availability became known.

"Warney's been ringing me nearly every day to find out if we've signed him because he knows that KP has the potential to be among the very top players in the world," said Bransgrove.

"But the real question will be how quickly he gets there and how much we see of him over the next two or three seasons."

The answer? Seven County Championship appearances in six years.

Six of those were during his first two months with the county, only two of which were at The Rose Bowl.

Throw in his 17 one-day and



ABOVE: Pietersen signs autographs for fans at the Rose Bowl (as it then was) BELOW: Pietersen (left) trudges off after being trapped LBW against Nottinghamshire



two Twenty20 appearances from 2005-10 and Pietersen spent just 45 days of his career in a Hampshire shirt.

But he was once very keen to play for the county.

"What have Hampshire said?" was his immediate response when I rang him following confirmation of the county's initial interest in signing him a decade ago.

By the time Pietersen made his Hampshire debut he was a household name.

Having made his one-day international bow in Zimbabwe a month after his Hampshire unveiling, Pietersen announced himself on the world stage with three one-day international hundreds in South Africa, amid much hostility from his fellow countrymen, the following February.

Six weeks later, he could not have been more accommodating

with the local press during a pre-season training day at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst.

Hampshire had also signed Pietersen's best pal Richard Logan, one of his few allies in the Notts dressing room from where, infamously, his kit bag had been flung over the balcony by his former captain Jason Gallian during one flare-up.

Pietersen shared a flat with Logan during those first few months with Hampshire and hopes were high when he made his debut at home to Essex in the 45-over totesport League on April 17, 2005.

It was a damp squib. Pietersen was bowled for five by slow left-armers Tim Phillips before Andy Flower – aka the Mood Hoover in Pietersen's tome – led Essex to a Duckworth-Lewis win.

Pietersen's first first-class innings for Hampshire (lbw Kirtley 0) was the first of three

KEEP UP WITH ALL THE LATEST HAMPSHIRE

tenth anniversary of Kevin Pietersen signing for Hampshire...

HAMPSHIRE'S CREASE



n May 2007
shire (June 2005)



ARRIVAL: Kevin Pietersen (centre) with Hampshire director of cricket Tim Tremlett (left) and chairman Rod Bramsgrove in October 2004

first-innings ducks in his first two months with the county.

But his maiden first-class fifty was a treat. It came against Sussex in the second innings of a thriller at Hove, a 51-ball 61 featuring three sixes – two against Mushtaq Ahmed's leg-spin and one audacious straight hit against Kirtley on to the top of the old Arthur Gilligan Stand (two months later he would do the same to Glenn McGrath on his Test debut at Lord's).

Ironically, Pietersen's first-class Hampshire debut is also memorable for the sledging of Matt Prior by the county's Australians.

Dubbed the 'Big Cheese' in Pietersen's book, Prior was given the moniker 'Watermelons' by Warne and Simon Katich, the joke being that the Sussex wicketkeeper looked

like he could squeeze one under each arm, such was his swagger as he came out to bat.

After just 17 runs from his first three one-day innings for Hampshire, Pietersen requested to open the batting against the part-timers of Shropshire CC at Whitchurch in the first round of the C & G Trophy, just a couple of months before his Test debut.

He proceeded to thrill the locals – and old friends from Cannock CC – with six sixes in a 49-ball 76 (Derek Kenway contributed 13 to their opening stand of 62).

It ensured his first win in a Hampshire shirt.

"I approached it as I do every game – as if it's an international," he said afterwards. "I needed the runs, that's why I asked Shane if I could open the innings.

"Kat (Simon Katich) and

Creeps (John Crawley) had sore fingers so I asked if I could have a go against the new ball and I loved it.

"My feet got moving a lot better than they have been. I've been hitting the ball really well, I've just got out in unfortunate, silly ways

"I've hit one into my pad that could have gone anywhere and went up to midwicket, and I hit another to backward point that could have gone for four.

"But that's cricket."

Pietersen's Hampshire form peaked in mid-May 2005. It began with 125 in another dramatic Championship match against Kent at Canterbury.

The home side closed on 447-9 after being set a record 485 to win, but former Hampshire scorer Vic Isaacs remembers the match for a joke that went down like a lead balloon.

"It was windy and with the

window open my hair had got blown about. When I went in the dressing room at the end of play, Pietersen said 'look at the state of your hair!'

"I jokingly commented that it was better than looking like a skunk! The room laughed but not him."

Pietersen's unique hairdo became familiar to cricket fans during that summer's epic Ashes series. "I think he wanted to be cricket's David Beckham," says his former Hampshire teammate Alan Mullally. "But he wondered why everyone was looking at him when we went to [Southampton bar] Dock Gate 4 soon after he had it done!"

Mullally offers an interesting insight into Pietersen from during this period.

"On one occasion I was chatting to Warney in the changing room when KP interrupted. 'Al,' he said. 'I am good aren't I?' Warney and I looked at each other, surprised. I told KP that I'd played against Lara, the Waugh brothers, Border and Tendulkar, and that he hadn't achieved what they had. He didn't know what to say. People think KP's arrogant but I think that brashness just covers up a lot of his insecurities. I think he's a good bloke underneath it all."

The high point of Pietersen's 26-game Hampshire career was a blistering run of form in mid-May 2005.

He followed his 125 at Kent with 80 against Middlesex at Lord's (from only 50 balls and including another six sixes), 69 not out in a C & G Trophy second-round win against Glamorgan and 126 against the same opponents in the Championship.

But his form soon tailed off as Hampshire lost in two days to county champions Warwickshire at Stratford-upon-Avon.

A week later, Pietersen suffered the ignominy of a two-ball duck on his return to Trent Bridge – trapped lbw by a yorker from former Notts teammate Andrew Harris (Pietersen made 41 against some declaration bowling – including ten overs from Gallian – in the second innings, before Hampshire won a final-day thriller in front of a handful of spectators following two days of rain).

His next first-class match was a very different occasion, the game in which he announced himself as a true star by top scoring twice, with 57 and an unbeaten 64, on his

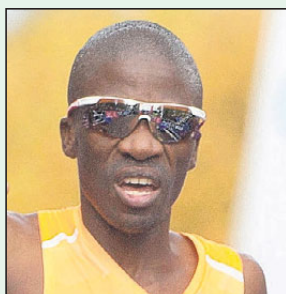
CONTINUED ON PAGE 45

Did You Know?

GREAT SOUTH RUN PAST WINNERS

Men

1990 – Marti ten Kate (Neth)	..... 47:52
1991 – Thomas Naali (Tanzania)	.... 47:11
1992 – Boay Akonay (Tanzania)	.... 47:04
1993 – Gary Staines (GB)	..... 46:11
1994 – Gary Staines (GB)	..... 47:00
1995 – Benson Masya (Kenya)	..... 45:56
1996 – Gary Staines (GB)	..... 46:57
1997 – Chris Kelong (Kenya)	..... 46:53
1998 – Stephane Franke (Germany)	.. 47:40
1999 – Simon Kasimili (Kenya)	..... 47:42
2000 – Gert Thys (South Africa)	.... 48:26
2001 – Khalid Skah (Morocco)	..... 46:17
2002 – Simon Kasimili (Kenya)	..... 47:27
2003 – John Yuda (Tanzania)	..... 46:35
2004 – Hendrick Ramaala (S Africa)	.. 47:14
2005 – John Yuda (Tanzania)	..... 46:45
2006 – Simon Arusei (Kenya)	..... 47:17
2007 – Luke Kibet (Kenya)	..... 47:31
2008 – Bernard Kipyego (Kenya)	... 46:42
2009 – Mo Farah (Great Britain)	.... 46:25
2010 – Joseph Ebuya (Kenya)	..... 45:15
2011 – Leonard Komon (Kenya)	.... 46:18
2012 – Stephen Mokoka (S Africa)	... 46:40
2013 – Emmanuel Bett (Kenya)	..... 48:03



STEPHEN MOKOKA

Women

1990 – Alison Gooderham (GB)	..... 56:09
1991 – Olga Bondarenko (Sov Union)	.. 53:16
1992 – Iulia Negura (Romania)	..... 53:19
1993 – Iulia Negura (Romania)	..... 53:01
1994 – Gitte Karlshøj (Denmark)	.... 54:49
1995 – Liz McColgan (GB)	..... 53:12
1996 – Derartu Tulu (Ethiopia)	..... 52:39
1997 – Liz McColgan (GB)	..... 52:00
1998 – Marian Sutton (GB)	..... 54:17
1999 – Esther Kiplagat (Kenya)	.... 54:42
2000 – Restitua Joseph (Tanzania)	.. 55:10
2001 – Restitua Joseph (Tanzania)	.. 52:36
2002 – Sonia O'Sullivan (Rep Ireland)	51:00
2003 – Sonia O'Sullivan (Rep Ireland)	53:26
2004 – Benita Johnson (Australia)	.. 52:32
2005 – Derartu Tulu (Ethiopia)	..... 51:27
2006 – Jo Pavey (Great Britain)	.... 52:46
2007 – Rose Cheruiyot (Kenya)	..... 53:44
2008 – Paula Radcliffe (GB)	..... 51:11
2009 – Ines Monteiro (Portugal)	.... 52:32
2010 – Grace Momanyi (Kenya)	.... 52:03
2011 – Aselefech Mergia (Ethiopia)	.. 52:55
2012 – Jo Pavey (Great Britain)	.... 53:01
2013 – Florence Kiplagat (Kenya)	... 53:53

BUPA GREAT SOUTH RUN PREVIEW



DRESSED TO THRILL: Some of the more colourful entrants in last year's Great South Run



**COMMONWEALTH Games
marathon champion
Michael Shelley will be
aiming for a place in the
history books when he
makes his Bupa Great
South Run debut next
week.**

The 31-year-old, left, has not competed in a major ten-mile race before and will be attempting to become the first Australian to win the elite men's section in Portsmouth, writes **SIMON WALTER**.

"Ten miles is a great little dis-

tance to race," he said. "It's in between the 10km and the half marathon, so you can really push yourself.

"I'm looking forward to the ten mile challenge. It should be a great event.

"I love running in these mass participation races. I enjoy listening to the experiences of people who run for charities and other reasons. It's just as exciting for them as it is on the elite side."

Shelley became the first non-African winner of the Commonwealth men's marathon title for 20 years

when he overhauled Kenya's Stephen Chemlany towards the end of a gripping 26.2 mile race at Glasgow 2014 in August.

It earned him a nomination for the prestigious 'Don Award', bestowed every October by Sport Australia and named after the legendary cricketer Sir Don Bradman. Demon fast bowler Mitchell Johnson was also on the shortlist for the 2014 prize.

Both were pipped by hurdler Sally Pearson but Shelley's coach was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame at the grand awards ceremony in

MORE SPORT ON DAILYECHO.CO.UK



FANCY THAT: Great South Run participants often don fancy dress to tackle the course



Melbourne last week.

As well as being a pioneering sports scientist at the Australian Institute of Sport, Dick Telford has guided Shelley, fellow marathon runner Lisa Martin-Ondieki and 5,000m man Andrew Lloyd to Commonwealth gold medals.

"Dick is a great coach and a great friend," said Shelley. "I've been working with him for 12 years now."

"The reason I finished so strongly in the Commonwealth Games marathon was because he looked at why I'd been fading

at the end of marathons and put some plans in place. I cut down on the sugar levels of the soft drinks I was taking and it worked."

Shelley returned to the scene of his Commonwealth triumph last weekend, finishing fifth in the Great Scottish Run half marathon in Glasgow.

It was his first race against Haile Gebrselassie, who dropped out after three miles, and Shelley is hoping that the great Ethiopian recovers from his asthmatic problems to join him in the 25th Bupa Great South Run.

"I've always been in awe of Haile," said Shelley. "Growing up in Australia, I watched all of those world records he ran, and that great battle he had with Paul Tergat at the Sydney Olympics."

"He's the greatest of all time. It was an absolute honour just to meet him in Glasgow."

The line-up for the elite men's field at the 2014 Bupa Great South Run also includes European 10,000m silver medallist Andy Vernon of Aldershot and the extraordinary Steve Way from Poole.

Way, 40, finished tenth in the

Commonwealth Games marathon less than seven years after taking up running to lose weight and give him motivation to kick his 20-a-day smoking habit.

Vernon also has local links, being a former Stubbington Green club athlete.

But European 10,000m champion Jo Pavey, who was due to head the field in the women's race, has withdrawn through injury.

Entries are open for the 25th Bupa Great South Run at www.greatrun.org/south

Pietersen's days at the Hampshire crease...

From page 43

Test debut against Australia at Lord's.

Pietersen only made one more appearance for Hampshire in 2005, contributing five runs in the C & G Trophy final win against Warwickshire at Lord's.

A 74-ball 98, arguably his best Rose Bowl innings, inspired Hampshire to victory against Essex in the first home game of their C & G Trophy defence the following May.

Sightings of Pietersen in a Hampshire shirt were now few and far between, but his battle with Simon Jones in a Friends Provident Trophy win against Glamorgan at Swansea the following June was a rare treat (KP made 39 in difficult conditions, while Jones bowled like the wind).

With Warne's Hampshire career now over, Pietersen's seventh and final Championship outing for the county came in a draw against Somerset at Taunton a year later, in June 2008.

It is a match best remembered for James Tomlinson's career-best 8-46 on the first day.

Pietersen followed that with his third Hampshire hundred, but what I remember most from those four days is the sight of the soon-to-be England captain enjoying an end-of-play game of football on the outfield with his teammates.

He did not come across as a loner then and made a good impression on his teammates. "He used to practise very hard, his work rate was unbelievable," says Tomlinson, as he recalled that week in Taunton.

Paul Terry, who would be replaced as Hampshire coach by Giles White later that season, concurs: "The first year with us was one of transition for KP, suddenly he was a superstar and I think it took him a while to get used to that."

"But whenever KP came down I couldn't fault him. He was great at Taunton. By then he was living in London but when we played away from home he had to stay around the group and he worked hard. He was really good around the dressing room and he always prepared well. He got me throwing balls at him for goodness knows how long!"

KP's Hampshire teammates do not have a bad word to say about his time with the county.

Only last week, Michael Carberry, having been dragged into the recent war of words by the laughable ECB statement that claimed KP 'made disparaging remarks' about his former Hampshire teammate, tweeted: "Just to set the record straight re: @KP24 .I've never had any issues with Kev. We have always got on well and still do."

Pietersen produced his best all-round performance for Hampshire a month after his Taunton ton, top scoring with a 29-ball 43 and taking 3-33 with his off-spin against Shaun Udal's Middlesex.

Within a few weeks he captained England for the first time. It was 18 months after returning to the ranks following his first ECB fall-out that he played his next - and last - game for Hampshire, in June 2010.

Pietersen was out for 15 but Hampshire won a T20 match by ten runs against Surrey, who he would soon be playing for following his post-match comments. "Geographically it doesn't work, I live in Chelsea," he said, when asked about his Hampshire future.

He then betrayed his lack of commitment to Hampshire when I asked for his thoughts on the performance of Chris Wood, who had just taken three wickets. As if thinking aloud, he replied: "Which one is Wood?"

A month later, England wanted Pietersen to prepare for a Test against Pakistan by batting in a 40-over match against Kent. But Hampshire, quite rightly, stuck with James Vince instead.

"KP was very professional for us, he gave everything when he was down, but we couldn't justify playing him ahead of a young, homegrown player who was playing well," said Bransgrove.

Fair enough. But it is said that Pietersen's last appearance at The Ageas Bowl, a 40-over match in August 2012, is remembered by Hampshire fans more than any of his performances for the county.

Having been bowled first ball by Liam Dawson, Pietersen left the field to a cacophony of boos from the home crowd, the sort of reception he received on his return to South Africa in 2005, but without the runs to silence them.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS - SEE BACK PAGE

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Barclays Premier League

Arsenal	2	Hull	2
Sanchez 13, Welbeck 90			
HT 1-1			
Burnley	1	West Ham	3
Boyd 60			
HT 0-0			
Crystal P	1	Chelsea	2
Campbell 90			
HT 0-1			
Everton	3	A. Villa	0
Jagielka 18, Lukaku 48, Coleman 76			
HT 1-0			
Man City	4	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Aguero 13,20 pen,68 pen,75			
HT 2-1			
Newcastle	L	Leicester	L
HT 0-0			
SAINTS	8	Sunderland	0
Vergini 12,0g, Pelle 18,69, Cork 37, Bridcutt 63,0g, Tadic 78, Wanyama 79, Mane 86			
HT 3-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chelsea	8	4	0	0	11	2	3	1	0	10	4	17
Man City	8	2	1	1	8	4	3	1	0	10	4	17
SAINTS	8	3	1	0	14	1	2	0	2	5	4	16
West Ham	8	2	0	2	6	5	2	1	1	9	6	13
Man Utd	7	3	0	1	9	4	0	2	1	4	6	11
Arsenal	8	1	3	0	7	6	1	2	1	6	5	11
Swansea	7	2	1	1	6	3	1	1	1	4	5	11
Tottenham	8	2	0	2	5	4	1	2	1	5	7	11
Hull	8	1	2	1	7	7	1	2	1	6	10	11
Liverpool	7	2	1	1	5	4	1	0	2	5	6	10
A. Villa	8	1	1	2	2	6	2	0	2	2	6	10
Everton	8	1	1	2	10	11	1	2	1	6	5	9
Leicester	7	1	3	0	10	8	1	0	2	1	4	9
W.B.A.	7	1	1	0	1	6	4	1	1	2	2	8
Stoke	7	1	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	5	6	8
Crystal P	8	1	1	2	4	5	1	1	2	7	9	8
Sunderland	7	1	0	3	0	6	4	0	2	2	11	8
Newcastle	7	0	2	1	5	7	0	2	2	2	7	4
Burnley	8	0	2	2	2	6	0	2	2	2	7	4
Q.P.R.	7	1	1	1	3	3	0	0	4	1	12	4

SkyBet Championship

Birmingham	0	Bolton	1
HT 0-1			
CHERRIES	1	Charlton	0
HT 1-0			
Brighton	1	Middlesbrough	2
Greer 88			
HT 0-1			
Cardiff	2	Nottm For	5
Macheda 22			
HT 2-0			
Fulham	1	Norwich	0
Kavanagh 22			
HT 1-0			
Huddersfield	4	Blackpool	2
Holt 4			
HT 3-2			
Ipswich	1	Blackburn	1
McGoldrick 65			
HT 0-0			
Millwall	3	Wolves	3
Gregory 67			
HT 0-1			
Reading	0	Derby City	0
HT 0-2			
Sheff Wed	0	Watford	3
HT 0-0			
Wigan	0	Brentford	0
HT 0-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Watford	12	4	2	0	15	6	3	1	2	8	6	24
Derby City	12	3	0	3	11	4	3	2	1	11	6	23
Middlesbrough	12	3	1	2	11	5	4	1	1	7	4	23
Norwich	12	2	3	1	10	6	4	0	2	11	5	21
Nottm For	12	3	3	0	14	6	2	3	1	6	5	21
Ipswich	12	4	1	1	9	3	1	4	1	8	8	20
Wolves	12	4	1	1	9	6	1	4	1	8	8	20
Charlton	12	3	3	0	8	5	1	4	1	6	6	19
CHERRIES	12	3	1	2	7	6	2	2	1	10	8	18
Brentford	12	3	2	1	10	8	2	1	3	5	8	18
Sheff Wed	12	1	3	2	3	6	3	2	1	8	5	17
Cardiff	12	4	0	2	10	8	0	4	2	5	7	16
Blackburn	12	2	3	1	11	9	2	3	1	3	10	16
Leeds Utd	12	3	2	1	6	3	1	4	1	6	12	15
Rotherham	12	3	1	2	6	6	1	2	3	5	8	15
Reading	12	3	1	2	11	10	2	2	3	8	10	15
Huddersfield	12	2	2	2	8	10	2	1	3	5	8	13
Millwall	12	2	2	2	8	11	1	2	3	5	8	13
Wigan	12	2	3	1	8	4	0	2	4	4	10	11
Brighton	12	1	3	2	6	7	1	2	3	5	7	11
Birmingham	12	2	1	2	3	5	8	1	3	2	7	11
Fulham	12	2	1	1	3	6	4	1	0	5	7	10
Bolton	12	1	2	3	7	10	1	0	5	2	11	8
Blackpool	12	1	1	4	4	8	0	2	4	4	10	6

SkyBet League One

Bradford	L	Sheff Utd	L
HT L-L			
Chesterfield	1	Oldham	1
Clucas 57			
HT 0-0			
Coventry	1	Bristol C	3
Miller 76			
HT 0-2			
Fleetwood Town	3	Doncaster	1
Dobbie 11			
HT 2-1			
Leyton O	0	M K Dons	0
HT 0-0			
Notts Cnty	5	Crawley	3
G Thompson 9,37,63			
HT 1-1			
Peterborough	2	Barnsley	1
Washington 45			
HT 1-1			
Preston	2	Port Vale	0
Gallagher 42			
HT 1-0			
Rochdale	1	Gillingham	1
Vincent 25			
HT 1-0			
Scunthorpe	1	Colchester	1
Fallon 20			
HT 1-1			
Walsall	0	Crewe	1
HT 0-0			
Yeovil	1	Swindon	1
HT 1-0			

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bristol C	13	5	1	0	13	5	4	3	0	15	8	31	
Peterboro	13	4	2	1	12	8	4	0	2	10	5	26	
Swindon	11	3	2	0	13	6	3	2	1	10	6	22	
Preston	11	4	3	0	14	7	2	1	1	8	4	22	
M K Dons	11	3	1	1	13	5	3	1	2	12	9	20	
Notts Cnty	12	3	2	2	10	8	2	3	0	7	2	20	
Chesterfield	12	3	2	1	11	7	2	2	2	11	11	19	
Fleetwood Tn	13	3	4	0	10	6	2	0	4	4	5	19	
Oldham	13	3	2	1	8	7	1	5	1	9	8	19	
Bradford	12	2	1	3	8	9	3	2	1	8	5	18	
Rochdale	12	2	2	3	7	6	3	0	2	13	7	17	
Sheff Utd	11	3	1	1	7	5	2	1	3	10	13	17	
Barnsley	12	2	0	3	10	11	2	3	2	8	8	15	
Doncaster	11	1	2	2	5	8	3	0	3	7	10	14	
Crawley	13	3	0	3	6	11	1	2	4	6	12	14	
Colchester	13	1	2	3	7	10	2	2	3	10	9	13	
Coventry	13	3	2	2	9	10	0	2	4	5	9	13	
Gillingham	13	3	2	1	8	6	0	2	5	5	13	13	
Yeovil	13	1	4	2	5	9	2	0	4	7	12	13	
Exeter O	12	0	2	4	4	9	2	2	0	9	6	12	
Walsall	13	2	3	2	8	5	0	3	3	3	9	12	
Port Vale	13	2	1	3	8	10	1	2	4	7	11	12	
Scunthorpe	13	2	1	4	7	13	1	1	4	8	13	11	
Crewe	13	2	0	4	7	15	1	1	5	4	15	10	

SkyBet League Two

Burton Albion	0	Morecambe	2
HT 0-0			
Bury	3	POMPEY	0
HT 2-0			
Cheltenham	3	Northampton	2
HT 1-0			
Dagenham	0	Newport County	1
HT 0-0			
Hartlepool	1	Luton	2
HT 0-0			
Mansfield	0	Cambridge	0
HT 0-0			
Oxford Utd	2	Tranmere	0
HT 1-0			
Plymouth	1	Carlisle	0
HT 1-0			
Southend	1	Exeter	0
HT 1-0			
Stenage	2	Acc Stanley	1
HT 1-0			
Weymouth	2	AFC Wimbledon	0
HT 0-0			
York	0	Shrewsbury	1
HT 0-0			



BATTLE OF THE BELGIANS: Tottenham Hotspur's Nacer Chadli (right) and Manchester City's Vincent Kompany during their Barclays Premier League clash at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, today.

		HOME					AWAY						
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wycombe	13	4	2	1	9	5	4	2	2	9	10	3	28
Bury	13	6	0	1	14	5	5	2	2	2	9	9	626
Burton Albion13	5	0	2	9	3	6	3	1	2	7	9	9	624
Luton	13	5	1	2	6	3	4	3	1	2	8	9	624
Wytham	13	5	1	2	10	6	3	2	2	2	7	9	624
Morescam	13	3	1	2	7	7	4	0	3	9	5	8	521
Shrewsbry	13	5	1	0	12	2	1	2	4	4	4	8	521
Southend	13	3	2	2	7	4	3	1	2	6	7	9	621
Newport Cnty13	3	2	1	12	8	2	2	2	3	4	5	7	519
Cheltenham	13	3	2	6	6	3	2	3	3	10	9	9	618
Truro	13	3	1	0	13	2	3	2	3	10	9	9	618
Northampton	13	3	1	2	13	9	2	2	3	9	10	8	518
Wimbledon	13	3	1	2	12	9	2	3	3	8	12	8	518
POMPEY	13	3	2	1	9	4	1	3	3	2	8	7	517
Stevensage	13	4	0	3	11	9	1	2	3	5	10	17	617
Widowfield	13	3	1	2	10	8	1	2	3	9	10	9	617
Exeter	13	1	3	7	8	3	1	3	7	9	9	9	616
Acc Stanley	13	3	1	2	8	7	2	0	5	10	17	16	616
Dagenham	13	2	0	5	7	11	2	2	2	9	10	14	614
Oxford Utd	13	3	2	2	9	6	0	2	4	4	12	13	613
Carlisle	13	2	2	2	9	9	1	1	5	6	13	12	613
Hartlepool	13	3	0	5	9	9	2	2	3	6	11	10	611
Tranmere	13	3	0	5	9	9	2	2	3	6	11	10	611
Tranmere	13	1	2	3	6	8	1	1	5	5	10	9	610